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# PRAYERS

AND

# OFFICES OF DEVOTION,

FOR

## FAMILIES,

AND FOR

## PARTICULAR PERSONS,

UPON MOST OCCASIONS.

BY BENJAMIN JENKS,

LATE RECTOR OF HARLEY, IN SHROPSHIRE, ENGLAND.

Men ought always to pray and not to faint....*Luke* viii. 1.
Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving...*Col.* iv. 2.

THE FIFTH ALBANY, FROM THE TWENTY-FIFTH ENGLISH EDITION.

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TO THE

RIGHT REVD. FATHER IN GOD,

# JOHN,

LORD BISHOP OF CHICHESTER.

*My Lord,*

I WAITED with some impatience to see that design accomplished by your accurate pen, which is here attempted now by my weak hand. Ever since you were pleased to acquaint me with your intention to publish something of this nature, it raised my expectation of your obliging the world with your printed Prayers, as you have done with many of your learned and seasonable Sermons; but after you had let me know the reason of holding your hand, the same might have stopt mine too; and I should have desisted, had the good Doctor who prevented you, or any of those worthy Authors, that thus bestowed their pains, descended to such particulars, as I thought fit for the use of those whom I desire to serve.

But now that I am engaged, my Lord, your favor shewed to the well-meant performance here, has given me the boldness of this Dedication. And the advancement of such persons to high dignity in our church, as are so well known to deserve it, encourages me also to hope, that a

gracious God hath yet a greater blessing for us than our own demerits give us reason to expect.

I beg your fatherly benediction upon me, and my poor endeavors, who am,

My Lord,

*Your obliged Kinsman,*

*In all humble observance,*

BEN. JENKS.

# PREFACE.

*To my Neighbors and Acquaintance, particularly those in the Parishes committed to my Care.*

My dear Friends,

IT is especially for your sakes, and primarily for your service, that I publish this Manual of Prayers, fitted to the capacities of your minds, to the necessities of your souls, and to the several conditions and occasions of your lives. Notwithstanding all the books of devotion already extant, many of which are very useful and excellent in their kinds, and such as I should recommend to you, without offering any other, did those with which I am best satisfied reach as far as I have designed here to go, and did not I think the strain of some too high for many of you, and the words and expressions of others that I have seen in your hands, too low and flat, or too obsolete and improper, and which will rather offend than edify such as have their senses better exercised in these matters: I have come to the resolution of adding my contribution to the common stock: yet, not taking upon me so to correct or censure them that have gone before me, as to discourage any from making use of those helps which they find agreeable to their case, and efficacious to quicken their devotion: But leaving every one to consult their own sense, and profit and comfort in choosing and taking what best likes their particular gust, and what most furthers their pious

designs; and to make what alterations also they please, even in the ensuing offices, for their own service, if they shall think fit to use them at all.

Nor have I such a conceit of any thing that is my own, as to suppose it free from the weakness and defects which I can espy elsewhere; I doubt not but others may find as many faults here: Nay, I cannot think any thing of this nature to be so complete, but that the author himself, in tract of time, may see reason to add or subtract, to alter or amend many particulars: Indeed, I shall as soon expect to see a shoe made to fit every foot, as a particular Form of Prayer exactly to suit all the circumstances of every soul.

I cannot undertake that the following Prayers should answer all the occasions which any one may ever find for prayer: But they that have the spirit of supplication, can tell how to fill up what is wanting: And such as I help in most cases, may help themselves in the rest. I am rather apt to think, that so many as are here set down, will be censured for more than needful; but, it being easy to pare off, the censors may let alone what they count superfluous; leaving it to those that will not disdain its assistance; and I had rather be under an imputation from some of my neighbors, for busying myself more than I have need, in a work that might have been spared, than bear the recoilings of my own mind for neglecting to impart any thing that I thought might be of use and service to the rest.

If any judge that I might better have left this behind me, not to be seen till I should myself have been no more seen: I was once of the same mind, and had so continued; but that I could not be sure, that many for whom I designed it, might not be taken off before me; whereby this piece of friend-

ship which I had for them would have been lost to them: And now that I do undertake the thing which is liable to many reflections (whoever be the manager) every one thinking he has a title to judge of that wherein every one is equally concerned; and that judgment passing according to the different principles and sentiments, and the particular genius and humor of each, 'tis not possible here to please every one: But however I shall not fail of my design, if I can be so happy as to profit some. And if so be I take any way peculiar to myself, I shall only alledge, that it is but the same liberty as most writers on this subject have taken. Though I pretend not to set myself on a level with the noted guides of others' devotion, that with good success, and general approbation, have labored herein, yet when our Lord has only enjoined the thing to be done, without settling the manner of performance; even an ordinary man, that is but conversant in these matters, has room humbly to propose his own experience, as long as he assumes not magisterially to impose it upon his readers; which in this present undertaking, the Judge of all thoughts knows to be far from mine.

I name no morning and evening prayers for particular persons, because here are so many occasional prayers, whereof every one may take their choice from time to time, for private use, according to particular exigencies; and besides those for families may as fitly serve for the closet, changing but the plural number into the singular. I have not directed to conclude the evening devotions with the Lord's Prayer; not because I count it improper at that time to be used, but because I think we have still a liberty of adding or omitting it; and therefore I have pointed to it for one part of the day, and

left it out in the other; but they that are for it, as an appendage to all the prayers used in their houses, may make it so if they please, notwithstanding that I shut up some of the family prayers without it. I make no distinction neither of ordinary days; for I understand not why the prayer that serves for Monday or Tuesday, should not be as good and proper for any other day of the week; yet I have offered some variety, that you may take sometimes one form, and sometimes another; or some part of this form and some of that, as you see occasion and shall judge most pertinent.

But I make a great difference of the qualities of persons, and states of the soul, and scenes of the life; according to which I have distributed and suited the offices here proposed. And though it be not needful to adapt a prayer to every man's particular employment in the world; yet no man, whatever be his place and calling, but may find many prayers here fitted to the condition of his soul, and to the great emergencies of his life. Only I would caution any who may need to be so advertised, that I do not intend the particular prayers entitled for such and such persons, of particular ranks and stations, as their excuse to supersede all praying else, as if such persons needed to use no other prayers; but those, over and above, they may sometimes add to the rest: And so prudently choosing agreeable offices, and so taking this my whole performance, with a little of Christian candor, and the allowance for common weakness, I am willing to hope it may not be unacceptable to those in my neighborhood (for whom I am chiefly concerned) as coming from one of your acquaintance, my brethren, and one not so utterly unacquainted with the practice and the benefit of such exercises of devotion: but that I am

able to say somewhat from my own experience, and that of many years, in this way. However small, I must confess, is my proficiency, to what it might have been; yet the several stages that my soul has gone through; the trials and temptations that I have had; and terrors and perplexities wherewith I have grappled; the conflicts and troubles of mind that I have lain under, the many sins that I have fallen into, (grievous to myself, and heinous in the sight of God, though not so scandalous as some others, to the view of the world;) and the escapes that I have made, the preservations and deliverances, the mercies and blessings, the revivings and comforts that I have found; are so many enticements to me, and so many engagements upon me, to do somewhat according to the ability which God hath given me, for the direction, the support, and help of others, that may be in the like condition. And may the thing here done be but well taken by any that fear God, the generation of them that seek his face, and are in love with prayer! I shall then little concern myself what's the resentment or censure of any one else; whether it be the worldly drudge, the sordid earth-worm, that throws prayers out of doors, as his interruption and hindrance; or the dissolute epicure, that takes pleasure in nothing but his mire, and shrinks from drawing nigh to the Holy God, as his hated task and torment; or the profane droll, that even laughs his Judge Eternal in the face, and mightily applauds himself, for daring to make a scorn of all that is serious and sacred; or the trifling impertinent, that is for all manner of exercises, but only those of religion; or lastly, the formal hypocrite, that only now and then passes a slight compliment on the Majesty of Heaven, but still mortally hates the life and power of godliness. The sense

and the satisfaction of one pious experienced Christian, that has known the grace of God in truth, is more to me than the exceptions and the clamors of a thousand such as these.

If this piece fly further abroad than my first intention; and if others, that know nothing of what concerns me, may pick out any thing here to further them in the way heaven-ward, I shall have the more cause then to bless God, for making me such an instrument of his grace. Yea, where I can but do the least good to any poor soul, I shall not think my labor in vain in the Lord. But my great care is for the souls of whom I have the charge; and for the rest of my friends and neighbors within my reach, whom I have, you know, so much and often importuned and called upon to give themselves to prayer, both in your families, and in your retirements every day. Not barely to read or say over so many words of prayer (as if it would presently make all whole and well, only to use such or such a form, that you think pertinent to your case, as a plaister fit for the sore) but to do it with a praying heart, with a mind intent upon the work, and your spirits engaged in his service. The reasons for which, and the necessity of it, with the lawfulness and expediency of using forms (especially where other abilities are wanting) I shall not insist upon here; because I have done it already elsewhere.

Liberty of Prayer asserted, &c.

Indeed, what some talk so much against all Forms of Prayer, I think, is as little to be regarded as what others do so bitterly inveigh against all prayer that is out of form; but in this matter I cannot but much approve the temper of an eminent churchman, (afterwards made one of our Right Rev. Bishops) who in

Bishop Wittenhall [Enter into thy Closet,] 3d edit.

his method and order for private devotion, thus freely and moderately gives his sense:

P. 62. 'Whether every particular expression, 'or the just words before-thought, it happily mat-'ters not very much; but that some fit, significant, 'proper, and quickening expressions for the several 'parts and substantials of my prayer be prepared, 'it is expedient.'—P. 81. 'I profess myself no 'whit guilty of undervaluing the free effusions of 'the soul before God, in private especially, in such 'expressions as the affected moved mind suggests; 'or as the spirit gives utterance.'—P. 284. 'If I 'am able to pray otherwise, I shall not haply always 'see it fit, or convenient, to use set or composed 'forms; for that there may be many particular af-'fecting circumstances in my sins, which no form 'will express so plainly as I have need to express 'them for the moving of my sorrow.'—P. 285. 'If 'I find my heart ready, and so composed, that I dare 'venture upon what we call a convinced prayer, it 'being of my own invention, by the assistance of the 'Spirit, may more perfectly suit my condition in all 'than one framed by another to my hand.'—P. 81, 82. 'Though constantly to use that way, may make 'our devotion more slight and disorderly, through 'the coldness, dulness, or heedlessness of our heart, 'or through distractions, incumbrances, or like 'mischiefs: and it may often occasion the omission 'of many necessary things, through incognitancy, 'and unavoidable forgetfulness.'——P. 8. 'But 'whether the words in which we utter ourselves be 'forethought or sudden, provided they fitly and rev-'erently express the inward sense of our hearts, it 'matters not, nor is it at all essential to prayer.'—P. 81. 'Be the words whose they will, my praying 'them, i. e. offering them up to God, with a heart

'suitable to them, hath made them as much mine, 'as if I had invented, contrived, dictated, or penned 'them at first.'

The manner then of expressing yourselves in my words, or in your own, or others, I leave, as here this author does, at liberty: and any helps that I have offered, in the following specimens, you may take or refuse, as you see good: only I must with all earnestness beseech you to take care, and to make conscience that the thing be daily done, and that heartily, as to the Lord: as ever you hope to reap any real good from the labors of your ministers, or ever to see their faces, or the face of God with comfort in that great day, when we must all give up our last accounts, and be finally determined for our everlasting state. When such as could not be prevailed with to give themselves to prayer, and to call upon the name of God, now in the day of grace, this time of mercy, shall with fruitless desires, wish themselves out of being; and no less vainly, than desperately, call upon rocks and mountains to fall upon them, and to hide them from his face, and to save them from his wrath in the day of judgment, that time of recompense and fury. And, therefore, according to that most cogent admonition of the author of the Whole Duty of Man, part 5, sect. 12. 'Let no man that professes himself a Christian, keep 'so heathenish a family, as not to see that God be 'daily worshipped in it.' To which let that be added of the other author afore quoted, P. 15. 'Prayer 'with the family, no one who would have God to 'bless his family can think that he may neglect.' And I shall give no further exhortation here to family prayer;* because I have done so much to that purpose since the first edition hereof, in another book written upon that particular argument.

* The bell rung to prayers.

Beloved, I am more sensible of my own frailty, than to reckon upon a much longer continuance in the world, which we all shall find to be so short a thoroughfare to the place of our eternal abode: and while I live, I desire nothing more from you, than the consolation of observing your devotion, and striving together with me in your prayers for your own salvation. And when I am dead and gone, I would leave behind me, not only some token of my love to you; but also some assistance in that way of your duty, wherein you are to follow those who are already entered into the heavenly glory.

I am apt to think, that some who are convinced of this duty, to use daily prayers, and who also feel an inclination to it, and some disposedness for it in their hearts, may yet be under a discouragement for want of suitable helps in a readiness to discharge the work.—For such, alas! is the dulness and indifferency of sinful men to that which is best for them, and which most highly concerns them, that they are not apt to be solicitous, so as they used to shew themselves in their wordly concerns, to seek out after the provisions and conveniences for the spiritual life, unless these fall directly in their way, and are set just before them. And, therefore, this prayer-book I have had in my thoughts to provide, and put into the hands of some of the poorer sort; and, without imposing upon any, I would also move such able friends as may favor the design, to lend a charitable hand in assisting to furnish more of these poor creatures, who, by the help of such a gift, might be put in a way to get the best and greatest riches; but I shall not offer to disturb any that are in the possession of better means already; no, let them go on with the use of them, and God's blessing be upon them: and if but any thing here

should be found agreeable and useful to others, they are at liberty to collect and take what they will, and pass over the rest. For, as the celebrated Dr. Hammond tells us, Prat. Cat. Lib. 3. Sect. 2. Ans. 5. 'The church being obeyed in the observation of 'the prescribed liturgy in public, it is not supposed by our church, but that every one in private 'may ask his own wants in what form of words he 'shall think fit: yet, that he may do it fitly and reverently, it will not be amiss for him to acquaint 'himself with the several addresses to God which 'the Book of Psalms, and other parts of Holy 'Writ, and other helps of devotion, will afford him, 'either to use, as he finds them fit for the present 'purpose, or by those patterns to direct and prepare 'himself to do the like.'

Now, may this poor attempt of mine be an invitation to some of my pious and learned brethren in the ministry, to set out some better entertainment for their people; and I shall be abundantly satisfied and pleased to see the thing promoted, and still further improved; though my whole performance should be vacated and excluded, to make room for others deserving the precedence. In the mean time, may a blessing from above follow these small endeavors of mine, and make them prosperous, in any measure, to help your devotion: and that you may in the use of any prayers here set before you, find some advantage to your souls, and the daily promotion of your sanctification, peace and salvation, is the earnest desire and prayer of

Your devoted Servant,

In the work of our Lord,

*B. J.*

## *Postscript to the Readers.*

BESIDES the addition of some prayers here, more than were in the first impression, which you will find marked with an asterisk in the contents; these latter editions do give me the opportunity of making some corrections to my own, and I hope also to others' better satisfaction; yet have I held my hand from altering much, lest the book should now appear another thing than before, to the offence of any that have been purchasers of the other; but the perusers who are observant, may perceive here so many corrections and amendments, as will give some advantage to such as shall think fit to make themselves owners of this.

I should have enlarged the forms for families in several parts, especially in those pertaining to the confessions of sin; which (as an excellent bishop of this church, upon the survey of this book, according to his wise and humble piety, was pleased to give me his sense) need more to be insisted upon than commonly we find; but that I feared such enlargements of the prayers, might hinder many families from using them at all: and though now I was solicited again, to hasten another review, in order to the impression, more additions you might have seen throughout the book, but that I should thus have made it too chargeable for some pockets, and too bulky for any.

The many emendations, therefore, which intelligent perusers may observe in this new edition will not add either to the size or price; but only make some

things more smooth and easy to those of inferior capacity; and the intermixture of many more words here than formerly, may better engage the attention, and quicken the sense of common readers.

May it please God to give the perusers of these helps serious minds and praying hearts, the good intention, and fervent devotion, to make the fuel here prepared flame on the altar; and when thy soul, reader, is so raised heavenward, send up one kind petition for his saving mercy on the poor unworthy Author.

# PRAYERS

AND

# OFFICES OF DEVOTION.

## *A Prayer for Devotion, and a Right Frame of Spirit in the Worship of God.*

O MOST High and Holy, Blessed and Glorious Lord my God! Thou wilt be sanctified in them that come nigh thee; and thou art greatly to be feared, and to be had in continual reverence of all that are about thee. Be pleased to sanctify my heart with thy grace, that I may sanctify the Lord God in my heart; and so draw nigh unto thee, that thou mayest draw nigh unto me: and in such manner pour out my heart before thee, that thou mayest pour down thy heavenly blessings and favors upon me.

I desire, O my God, to meet thee in thy ways; and in compliance with thy gracious appointment, I

fall down and worship here at thy footstool, in the name and mediation of thy dear Son. For O how unworthy am I to come into thy holy presence! And how unable of myself to perform any duties of service meet to be rendered unto the heavenly Majesty! O let thy great mercy overlook my unworthiness; and, by thy powerful grace, keep me from every offensive thing that would make my prayers sin and abomination to the Lord. And as thou hast made me sensible of my duty, and of my own insufficiency to discharge it as I ought, so may thy good Spirit help my infirmities, and increase my abilities for thy service; that without sinful dulness or distractions, I may worship thee in spirit and in truth; and serve thee with reverence and godly fear: yea, with all readiness and love, and delight in approaching unto God.

Instruct me, gracious Lord, in the knowledge of thy will; and assist me in the way of my duty: that I may both understand what is thy pleasure concerning me; and also may find grace sufficient to perform it. O make me such a spiritual worshipper as thou dost seek; and my service such a spiritual sacrifice as thou wilt accept.

Help me, my strength and my Redeemer, to offer up my heart and myself, together with my prayers and addresses, unto thee: that I may not be rash with my mouth, nor hasty in my heart, to utter any thing rudely before thee; nor draw nigh to thee, with my lips and body, when my heart is far from thee: but that heart and soul, and all that is within me, may be taken up in a devout, and faithful, and affectionate attendance upon thee.

And thou that hearest prayers, O quicken me, that I may call upon thy name. And let me receive such grace from thee, as may enable me to

perform acceptable service unto thee; through the beloved of my soul, my only Saviour and prevailing Advocate, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Family Prayer, in the Order of our Lord's Prayer.*

O GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by eternal generation: the Father of all things, by temporal creation: and the Father of thy people, by adoption and spiritual regeneration! what manner of love is this, that we, rebels against heaven, slaves of satan, and children of wrath, shall be made the children of the Most High, and heirs of everlasting glory! We are thine, O Lord, for thou hast made us out of nothing, and looked upon us in our blood, to set us up again, after we had destroyed ourselves. Thou art in heaven, O that we may in heart and mind, thither ascend; and with all lowliness worship at the footstool of thy glorious Majesty. Thou art our Father: O that we may with trust and delight, as children, draw nigh unto thee: who hast all fulness both of power and mercy, to do for us. And may we also love as brethren, and still hold together as dear children of the same heavenly Father.

And O that all the world may give thee, our God, the glory due to thy great name! that thou mayest be more known, and feared, and loved, and honored, by us, and by all men, as our supreme Lord, and as our chiefest good: that we may glorify thee as we ought, in our thoughts and desires, and in our words and ways!

O that the kingdom of sin and satan may be still more and more weakened, till they be utterly destroyed! That all the powers on earth may use for

thee the authority which they have received from thee! That all the kingdoms of the world may become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and Jerusalem be made the joy and praise of the whole earth! O that Christ may dwell and rule in our hearts by his spirit and grace; and make us a willing people, the faithful subjects of his holy kingdom; and still reign over us here, till we are made fit to live and reign with him and all his redeemed, in the heavenly glory for ever. O thou blessed and only Potentate! let thy kingdom come, so powerfully into us, that thy will may be done still faithfully and cheerfully by us.

And may thy will and word, O Lord, and the way of thy salvation, be every where known upon earth. Let the light of thy gospel shine and prevail, and win more proselites daily throughout the world. O send the means of grace, where they are not: and make them prosperous and successful where they are. Let the will of thy word and will of our God, be the rule of our lives, to guide and sway us in all our ways. Make us more conformable to thy will in all that thou requirest of us; and more submissive to thy will in all that thou layest upon us. Yea, make us pleased with whatever is thy pleasure; and greatly to love thy word, and delight to do thy will, and joyfully and cheerfully to serve thee: as thy glorious angels and saints above, whose heaven it is to please and enjoy the Lord.

And, till we are fitted for the better glorious life to come, give us, O Father, of thy gracious bounty, all things needful and convenient for our present being here. Preserve us from all the snares and dangers that attend both the prosperous and the afflicted state. When we have this world's good, O that we may use it wisely and piously, to thy glory: and

whenever thou takest it from us, make us contented, and patient, and thankful; and the more intent upon that good which shall never be taken away. O good God! we beg, that still we may be in that state of body which thou knowest to be best for our souls; and that all which we have in this life, may tend and help to speed us to the blessed life immortal.

We are ashamed and sorry that we have so much and so long dishonored thy blessed name; disobeyed thy holy word, and abused thy rich mercy. We desire to return and to be reconciled to our God; to be humble and penitent for our sins, and to entreat thy gracious favor in Jesus Christ, for the pardon of them. Forgive us, we beseech thee, O Father of mercies, for his sake, all the sins that ever we have committed against thee; especially, we beg to be discharged from those wasting and presumptuous sins, committed against the strivings of thy Spirit, and the checks of our own enlightened minds, that have made the saddest breaches upon our peace, and filled our souls with the dread of thy wrath. O give us tokens for good, to persuade and assure our hearts that thou hast such mercy in store for us. And incline our hearts, O Lord, to forgive, and to be merciful, as we need to be forgiven, and as we desire to obtain mercy.

And, that iniquities may not prevail against us, to spoil us for the future, subdue them, O God of all grace, by the power of thy Holy Spirit; and never suffer us to be tempted above the strength wherewith thy grace shall supply us. Make us wary to avoid all the temptations we can, and strong in the Lord to overcome what we must encounter. We are poor, frail creatures: but thou, O Lord Almighty, art stronger than the strong one: O do thou protect us, we beseech thee, by thy powerful aids: and so keep

us from falling, that we may never be made a prey to the cruel murderer of souls; nor be delivered into those bitter pains of eternal death, which are the sad wages of our sins; but may find a way to escape every snare, and be preserved safe to thy heavenly kingdom.

For thine is the kingdom: O Lord most high! thou art the King of all the world; and happy are they who are under the conduct of thy good Spirit, as the willing subjects of thy spiritual kingdom. We desire and beg that we may all be found of that happy number. Save Lord, and let the King of heaven hear us when we call.

We ask great things at thy hands, but not too great for the Almighty God to grant: for thine is the power: and thou art able to do for us exceedingly abundantly, even above all that we ask or think: O reveal thy glorious arm, to do the things worthy of God, which none but thy blessed Self can do; in forgiving, and healing, and helping us, who have undone ourselves, and are hopeless and helpless in ourselves.

Thine is the glory: O God; and such are the wonders of thy grace, to get thee glory in the salvation of those that were lost.

Therefore, though we are exceedingly guilty and utterly unworthy: yet we do pray and hope, that thou wilt glorify thy mercy, to remember us in our low estate: and to relieve us in all our wants and straits, who forsake every refuge else to come to thee, O blessed God, alone; and have all our expectation from thee; and have all our dependence upon thee; trusting only in thy gracious goodness, through the all-sufficient merits and mediation of our blessed Redeemer: and looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

And to thee, O great and glorious Lord our God, whose kingdom ruleth over all; to thee who dost whatever thou pleasest in heaven and in earth: to thee who sheweth forth all thy glory to the blessed that are in thy presence, be glory in the highest, and all thanks and praise ascribed of us, and of all the world, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## *Morning Prayer for a Family.*

O LORD, the blessed God of our salvation! thou art the hope of all the ends of the earth, upon whom the eyes of all do wait: for thou givest unto all life, and breath, and all things. In thee we ever live, and move and are; and upon thee we continually do depend for all the good that ever we have, or hope for. Still thou takest care of us, and watchest for good over us; even in our rest and sleep, when we have not so much as any thoughts of caring for ourselves: and daily thou renewest to us our lives, and thy mercies: every morning giving us new occasions still for thy praise, and our thankfulness. And thou hast given us the assurance of thy word, that if we commit our affairs to thee, and acknowledge thee in all our ways, thou wilt establish our thoughts, and direct our path. And therefore we desire, O Lord, still to put ourselves under thy gracious conduct, and thy fatherly protection; and to beg the heavenly guidance and blessing, and assistance of thy good Spirit, to choose our inheritance for us; and to dispose of us, and of all that concern us, to the glory of thy name.

O Lord, withdraw not thy tender mercies from us, nor the comforts of thy presence, nor the assistance of thy Spirit; for our great contempt and manifold abuses of all such grace and goodness. Nev-

er punish our past sins, by giving us over to the love and power of our sins; but give us true penitent hearts for all the evils committed by us; and thy merciful discharge from all the guilt that lies upon us. And grant us, O good God, the comfortable sense and apprehension of thy gracious acceptance of us, and thy merciful intentions towards us in the Son of thy love, the Lover of our souls: that our souls may bless thee, and all that is within us may praise thy holy name.

And O that we may find the joy of the Lord to be our strength, to enable us against our sins; especially the sins to which we are most addicted, and whereof we are in greatest danger; and to make us also more ready to every good work, and better disposed for all the duties of piety, justice, charity and sobriety, which we owe to thee our God, to our neighbor and ourselves: that herein we may exercise ourselves to have always the conscience void of offence towards God, and towards men. O help us to walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise; carefully redeeming the time that we have lost, and conscientiously improving all those seasons, and means of grace, which thou art pleased to put into our hands, for the best profit and advantage of our souls. And while we are upon earth, O give us all things needful and convenient for our present pilgrimage: and sanctify to us all our enjoyments, and all estates that we go through, and all events that now befal us; till, through the merits of thy Son, and the multitude of thy mercies, we are conducted safe to be ever with the Lord. Amidst all our other affairs in this world, O let us never forget or neglect the one thing needful; but be in greatest care so to demean ourselves every day, as may forward our comfortable accounts in the great day of thy appearing and glory.

O gracious Father! keep us we beseech thee, this day in thy fear and favor; and help us to live to thy honor and glory. If thou guide us not, we shall run into errors; if thou preserve us not, we shall fall into dangers: O let thy good providence be our defence and security: and let thy holy Spirit be our guide and counsellor in all our ways. And grant that we may take the ways and courses agreeable to thy will, and acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus Christ: in whose sacred name and words we close up these our imperfect requests to thee, Our Father, &c.

Let thy grace, O Lord Jesus Christ, thy love, O heavenly Father, thy comfortable fellowship, O holy blessed Spirit, be with us, and with all whom we ought to beg thy mercy for in our prayers, this day, and for ever more. *Amen.*

## *Another Morning Prayer for a Family.*

O LORD, thou art the God whose we are, and whom we ought to serve, with all the endowments and abilities for thy service, wherewith thou hast blessed us. For thou hast laid upon us all the obligations of thy laws, and all the endearments of thy love, to be faithful in the covenant of our God, and to abound in the work of the Lord. And we desire to humble our sinful selves here before thee, that our lives have been so unserviceable to thee, and so full of provocation against thee: that the dishonor which we have done thee, O Lord, has by many degrees, exceeded all the service: that we have lived to ourselves, more than to the Lord and Giver of our lives; and we have served our own lusts and pleasures more than thy holy blessed will; which is the rule of all righteousness, and in the

performance whereof, there is the greatest reward. O how have we disbelieved thy truths, disobeyed thy commands, disregarded thy promises and threats! and resisted and defeated all thy gracious methods to reclaim us from the evil of our ways, and to bring us over entirely to thyself.

We have sinned against thee, our God, to the infinite wrong and damage of our own souls; and by our sins we have spoiled and destroyed ourselves; but it is not in us to recover and save ourselves. No: in thee alone is all our help. Yea, thou hast laid help upon one that is mighty and able to save to the uttermost all that come to God through him: through whom thou hast encouraged us to come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in every time of need. In him, therefore, we beg, Lord, that thou wilt be reconciled to us, and at peace with us; as a Father of mercies, and a God of consolation.

And for his sake, enable us also, we beseech thee, to demean ourselves as becomes the children of God, the redeemed of the Lord, and the members and followers of Jesus Christ. O put such principles of grace and holiness into our hearts, as may make us to hate all iniquity, and every false way. And put thy spirit within us, causing us to walk in thy statutes, and to keep thy judgments, and to do them. Nor only lay thy commands upon us, but be pleased, O Lord, to enable us for the performance of every duty required of us. And so engage our hearts to thyself, that we may make it our meat and drink to do thy will; and with enlarged hearts, run the way of thy commands. O make our services acceptable to thee while we live, and our souls ready for thee when we die. And as long as we are in this world, keep us, O Lord our God, from the evil

of it, and from the snares and dangers which thou knowest we are continually exposed to in it. O make our passage safe and sure, through all the changes, troubles, temptations, and various conditions of this mortal life, to the unchangeable glories and felicities, of life everlasting.

Be merciful to us, good Lord, and bless us, and keep us this day, in all our ways, and in all our lawful designs and undertakings: and may we take nothing in hand, but what is warranted in thy word. O let us be in the fear of the Lord all the day long; let thy fear be ever before our eyes to restrain us from the things provoking to our God, and destructive to our souls. And let thy love abound in our hearts, and sweetly and powerfully constrain us to all faithful and cheerful obedience, acceptable in thy sight, through him that has loved and redeemed us; even the Lord our righteousness; in whose blessed name, and the words of prayer which himself has taught us, we continue praying, Our Father, &c.

The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, be with us, and with all that belong to us, this day, and for ever more. *Amen.*

## *A third Morning Prayer.*

O LORD God, merciful and gracious, long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth! Thou keepest mercy for thousands, pardonest iniquity, transgression and sin, and dost not retain thy anger for ever, because thou delightest in mercy. How excellent is thy loving kindness, O God! therefore do the sons of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. And therefore do we desire still to look up to that bountiful hand of thine,

from whence we evermore have received all our good things. O Lord our God! be thou pleased to look down mercifully upon us, and be gracious and favorable to us, as thou usest to be unto those that love thy name. O look not upon the sin of our nature, nor the sins of our hearts and lives; which are more than we can remember, and greater than we can express; and such as make us seem vile, even in our own eyes, and so highly guilty before thy holy Majesty, that it is of the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because thy compassions fail not. But behold us in mercy, through the merits and mediation of thy Son our Saviour, who did no sin, and was manifested that he might take away our sins: by whom it is that we have this access to the Majesty on high, and encouragement to come into thy presence, to ask what we need, and what thou abundest with, and art inclinable to make thy poor creatures happy in the enjoyment of.

And seeing there is in Christ Jesus an infinite fulness of all that ever we can want or wish to make us holy, and to make us most blessed eternally: O that we may all receive of his fulness grace sufficient for us: to pardon our sins, and subdue our iniquities; to justify our persons, and to sanctify our souls; and to complete upon our hearts and lives that holy renovating change, which may still more and more transform us into the blessed image after which thou didst create us; and make us still more meet to be partakers of the inheritance of thy saints in light.

And teach us, O Lord our God, to use this world without abusing it, and to enjoy the things of it, without losing our part in thy love, which is better than life. Whatever we have of the world, O may we have the same with thy leave and love, sanctified to us by the word of God, and prayer; and by the

right employment and improvement thereof to thy glory, who art the gracious Giver of all our good things. And whatsoever we want of the things of this life, O Lord our heavenly Father, leave us not destitute of any of those things that accompany salvation, but adorn our souls with all such graces of thy holy Spirit, as may enable us to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things, by such a conversation as does become it.

Help us, O gracious Lord, in the whole of our duty to thee our God; and also in the discharge of all relative duties which we owe to men, whether superiors, equals, or inferiors, all with whom we have our conversation in the world: that we may walk wisely toward them that are without, and kindly toward them that are within; and not be justly offensive unto any; but, what in us lies, useful and beneficial to all. And thus let us pass the time of our sojourning here, in thy fear and favor, and to thy honor and glory; that at our last review thereof, thy name may have the praise, and our souls the comfort, in the hour of death, and in the great day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now that thou hast renewed our lives and thy mercies to us this morning, help us, good God, to renew our desires, and resolutions, and endeavors, to live in the obedience of thy holy will, and to the honor of thy blessed name. O restrain us from the evils and follies into which we are prone to fall; and quicken us to the offices and duties which we are averse to perform. And grant that we may think and speak, and will and do, the things becoming the children of our heavenly Father; and so find the strong consolation of thy gracious acceptance in Jesus Christ our Saviour; who, when we pray, has taught us to say, Our Father, &c.

## *A fourth Morning Prayer.*

O LORD God, that hearest prayer, and art nigh to all that call upon thee in truth, having thine ears open to a world of creatures, that continually depend upon thee! As we are moved by our own necessities, so are we encouraged by the daily experience of thy mercies still to shelter ourselves under the shadow of thy wings, and to continue our suits and supplications at the throne of thy grace. And we beg of thee, who fashioneth all the hearts of the sons of men, that thou wilt prepare our hearts to come into thy holy presence and to call upon thy blessed name, in a due and acceptable manner. O! pour upon us the spirit of grace and of supplications; and let thy good Spirit help our infirmities, and teach us to pray, and to ask such things, and in such a way, as shall be most agreeable to thy will, and most advantageous to our souls.

For we, who are but poor worms, and sinful dust and ashes; that have too much cause to be afraid, lest our great and manifold sins have provoked thee to hide thy face from us, and to shut up thy loving kindness in displeasure against us, have taken upon us to speak unto thee, the Sovereign Majesty of heaven and earth. For we have done foolishly and wickedly, in not hearkening to the calls of thy word, nor yielding to the monitions of thy Spirit, to walk in the ways which thou hast set before us. Our iniquities are increased over our heads, our trespasses are grown even up to heaven, and our sins are a sore burden, too grievous and heavy for us to bear. They are infinite debts, and sad accounts; for which if thou, O Lord, shouldst enter into judgment with us, we could not answer thee one of a

thousand: but must lay our hands upon our mouths, and plead nothing but guilty, having our whole dependence upon thy mercy.

O God, be merciful to us, miserable sinners, for his sake, whom thou hast exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance to thy people, and forgiveness of their sins: be merciful to us, we pray thee, and heal our souls, that have greatly sinned against thee. O heal our backslidings, renew us to true repentance, establish our hearts in thy true fear and love, and establish our goings in thy holy ways; that we may not be so wavering and bent to backsliding, nor revolt from thee to turn to folly, after thou in mercy hast spoken peace to our souls; but may go on conquering and to conquer all the enemies of our souls, and all the hinderances of our salvation, till satan be bruised under our feet.

O thou God of all grace! bring such thoughts to our minds, and lay such considerations home powerfully upon our hearts, as thou knowest most effectual to prevail with us, to work us in thy will, and to keep us from our iniquity, within the bounds of our duty, till thou receive us into the blessed kingdom of thy glory. And, in the mean time, sanctify to us all thy dealings with us; and bless us in all our undertakings, and in all our conditions, fruitions and relations. Make us humble in an high estate, contented in a low, and still duly careful of our souls in all: following after the things now which will bring us true peace and comfort at the last.

Dispose of us, we beseech thee, our God, and of all that concerns us this day, to the glory of thy name. O keep us at all times, and in all places and companies, from the evil of sin, and from all other evils, to which the greatness of our sins does make

us liable. And take thou, O heavenly Father, the gracious charge, and guidance, and government of us; and so lead us here in all our ways, with thy counsel, that hereafter thou mayest receive us into thy glory; through thy tender mercies, and our Saviour's abundant merits: in whose own words, we beg all things needful for ourselves and others, at thy hands.

Our Father, &c.

## *A fifth Morning Prayer.*

O LORD our God! thy name is most excellent in all the earth: thou hast set up thy glory above the heavens, and thou art worthy to be celebrated with everlasting praises of men and angels: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure it is that they are and were created. Thy hands, O Lord, have made us and fashioned us, and thou hast breathed into our nostrils the breath of life; yea, still thou holdest our souls in life, and givest us every good thing that makes our lives a blessing and a comfort to us. Thou hast formed us for thyself, that we should shew forth thy praise, and live to thy glory, as we do continually live upon thy bounty.

But, O Lord our God! we have not brought thee the glory which thou hast made us capable of, and so many ways obliged us to: instead of that, O how greatly have we dishonored thee, our God, in the whole course and conduct of our lives! Time after time, forgetting the gracious Giver of all our good things, who art never unmindful of us: And O how soon have we been weary to do thee service, who art never weary to do us good! Yea, we have not only neglected thy work, but have been disobedient against thy word, and have taken bold li-

berties, to go on after our own foolish and hurtful lusts, in such ways of living as thy laws and our own hearts disallow and condemn us for.

And for these things we desire to pour out our hearts, and to humble our sinful selves here before thee; entreating thy gracious favor, for the sake of that mercy of thine in Christ Jesus, who has moved thee to spare us so long, and to do so much for us already, that thou wilt be pleased to give us repentance and pardon for all that is past, wherein we have offended thee; whether in omitting of our duty, or failing in it, or doing contrary to it. However we have transgressed, O humble us duly under the sense of it; and, for thy dear Son's sake, absolve us thoroughly from the guilt of it.

And strengthen us, good Lord, with might by the spirit in the inner man, to make us more watchful against, and more victorious over, the corruption of our nature, the temptations of the devil, and the distractions and allurements of this sinful world, wherein we live. O destroy in us every vicious inclination, every evil habit, and rebellious notion, that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and against the obedience of our Lord Jesus Christ. And increase and confirm in us, still more and more, thy true knowledge and faith, and fear, and love; and every grace of thy holy Spirit, which thou knowest to be most wanting in us, and necessary for us: such as may make our lives still more comfortable to ourselves, more profitable to others, and more to the glory of thy name. And however it goes with us, as to the concerns of this present time, O that we may still be found in the way of our duty, fearing God, and working righteousness; that we may secure our interest in the great Saviour of the world, so that when all here shall fail us, thou may-

est take us up, and be the strength of our hearts, and our portion for evermore.

Day by day we magnify thee, O Lord, who makest every day of our lives still a further addition to thy mercies. We bless thee for our last night's preservation and protection, and for the rest and refreshment which thou hast given us therein. O cause us to hear thy loving kindness in the morning, for in thee do we trust; cause us to know the way wherein we shall go, for we lift up our souls to thee. Cast us not away from thy presence; take not thy holy Spirit from us; but direct all our ways to please thee our God, that thou mayest crown us with blessing and good success. Help us to see thy power, to own thy presence, to admire thy wisdom, and to love thy goodness in all thy creatures. And by all the comforts of creatures, O draw our hearts still nearer to thyself, the blessed Creator of every comfort; and let our meditations of God be sweet as well as frequent, that delighting ourselves in the Lord, thou mayest give unto us the desires of our hearts. Such thy mercy and grace we beg for ourselves, and all ours, and thine, every where, in our great Mediator's form of prayer, Our Father, &c.

## *A sixth Morning Prayer.*

WE do here present ourselves this morning before thy heavenly glorious Majesty, most blessed Lord our God, with the desire of our souls, to pay unto thee that tribute of homage and service, and prayer and praise, which thou hast made us capable of, and every way obliged us to. We desire to perform the same in such a manner, that thou mayest mercifully accept us and our services, at the hands of Christ Jesus. In his great name we come

to thee, at thy command, and worship here at thy footstool, to beg thy pardon and peace, the increase of thy grace, and the tokens of thy love. For we are not worthy that thou shouldst, in any way of mercy, take notice of us, or be entreated by us: but worthy is the Lamb of God, slain to take away the sins of the world, for whose sake do thou, O Lord, mercifully look upon us; for he has fulfilled those holy laws, which we have broken, and perfectly satisfied the justice of heaven, for all our breaches of them. And in him thou art a God gracious and merciful, to poor sinners, who deserve nothing from thee, but to be forsaken and abhorred by thee. Unto us belong shame and confusion of face for our sins, and fearful expectation of all the judgments and miseries which thy holy laws denounce against sinners: if thou, Lord, shouldst be extreme to mark what we have done amiss; if thou shouldst deal with us and proceed against us as in justice thou mightest.

But, O gracious Father, regard not what we have done against thee, but what our blessed Saviour has done for us: nor what we have made ourselves, but what he is made of thee, our God unto us. And O that Christ may be to every one of our souls, what he is to all thy faithful people, wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: that his precious blood may cleanse us from all our sins; and that the grace of thy holy Spirit may further renew and sanctify our souls, and subdue our iniquities, and mortify our lusts; and quicken us to, and enable us for the performance of all the duties of thy holy service. O let not sin reign in our mortal bodies, that we should obey it in the lust thereof. Let there be no sin in us but what is felt and hated, bewailed and resisted by us: and let us approve our

very hearts to thee, the Searcher of them ; and all our ways still pleasing in thy sight.

O teach us to know thee, our God, and enable us to do thy will as we ought to do. Give us hearts to fear thee, and love thee ; to trust and delight in thee, and to adhere and cleave in faithfulness unto thee. That no temptations may draw us, nor any tribulations drive us from thee ; but that all thy dispensations to us, and all thy dealings with us, may be the messengers of thy love to our souls, to bring us still nearer to thy blessed self, and to make us still fitter for thy heavenly kingdom. Quicken us, O Lord, in our dulness ; that we may not serve thee in a lifeless and listless manner : but may abound in thy work, and be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. And make us also faithful in all the offices of intercourse with our neighbors ; that we may be ready to do good, and bear evil, and forbear revenge ; and be just and kind, merciful and meek, peaceable and patient, sober and temperate, humble and self-denying, inoffensive and useful in the world. That so glorifying thee here upon earth, we may at our departure hence, enter into the joy of our Lord, and be for ever glorified in thy heavenly kingdom.

O thou that hast kept us alive to this day, and hast been still good and kind to us all our days, renew thy mercy to us, we beseech thee, together with this morning light : and as thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice, so lift up the light of thy countenance upon us, and make us glad with the tokens of thy love : and thou that art ever present with us, O make us ever well aware of thy presence, that we duly remember thee in all our ways, and wisely and piously demean ourselves in all our affairs. Be with us, good Lord, at our going out, and our coming in : and let thy grace fol-

low us this day, and all the days of our life. Be thou our guide unto death, in death our comfort, and after death our portion and happiness everlasting. O hear us from heaven, thy dwelling place; and, when thou hearest, have mercy; forgive the sins of our persons, and the sins of our prayers: and do more for us than we are worthy to expect at thy hands, for his sake, who alone is worthy: in whose comprehensive words we sum up all our desires. Our Father, &c.

## *A seventh Morning Prayer.*

O LORD God Almighty, thou art the Sovereign Majesty of heaven and earth, against whom all our sins have been committed, by whom alone they can be pardoned, our iniquities subdued, our souls sanctified, and all our wants and necessities supplied. Thou art able, and also ready, to hear and help, to bless and save thy people, that look up unto thee, and wait, and call, and depend upon thee. We have none to repair to for remedy against the evils of our sins, but unto thee, the great God, against whom we have greatly sinned: who delightest to shew mercy to the miserable, and lovest the occasions of glorifying thy compassion, in helping us out of those straits and perplexities, into which our sins have cast us, from which all the world else cannot save us. We come, Lord, begging that mercy, which thou knowest we extremely want, and grace to help in time of our need. We beg the same for the sake of thy infinitely beloved Son, our most worthy and all-prevailing Advocate, whose blood alone is of virtue and value sufficient, to wash out all the stains wherewith our sins have defiled our souls.

We are unclean, Lord, we are unclean: O how abominable at the worst, and how imperfect at the very best: but if thou look upon us in the Son of thy eternal love, thou wilt not abhor our guilty souls. And to prepare us for the mercies of that Saviour which thou hast prepared for our souls, O make us to feel the burthen and the bitterness of our sins; and help us to find them out to our repentance and reformation, that they may never find us out to our ruin and destruction. Holy Father! carry on with power thy victory over our corruptions, and the work of faith, and grace, and sanctification in our souls. Quicken us, O Lord our God, and stir us up to thy work; and help and assist us in the performance of all duties lying upon us, which of ourselves thou knowest how unable we are to perform. O thou that workest in us to will and to do, of thy good pleasure, be pleased to ordain peace for us, as thou hast also wrought all thy works in us.—Establish the thing, O God, which thou hast wrought for us; and go on to work mightily upon our hearts by thy grace, till our souls are fitted for the eternal enjoyment of thy glory.

Dear Lord, thy mercies are fresh and new to us every morning. We laid us down and slept, and again awaked; for thou hast sustained us, and kept us from the terrors of the night, and from all sad accidents, to rise in peace and safety. Glory to thee, O God of our salvation, who art still so mindful of us, and merciful to us. Go on, we pray thee, to be good to us this day, and teach us how to carry ourselves, and to order all of our affairs. O direct our undertakings, and prosper our endeavors. Rule our hearts in thy fear and love, and our lives to thy honor and praise. O keep us from evil, and help us to do that which is good and pleasing to our God,

through Jesus Christ. Give us, Lord, all that we have asked as we should; forgive us all that we have asked amiss, and give us all else needful, that we should have asked; which we continue to beg in the comprehensive words of thy dear Son. Our Father, &c.

## *Evening Prayer for a Family.*

O LORD our God! thou art infinitely great, and infinitely good. Thy glory is above all our thoughts, and thy mercies are over all thy works. And above all thy mercies, have we cause to admire, and bless, and praise thee, for those mercies which, in so large a measure, and especial manner, thou hast been pleased still to vouchsafe unto us, who are the daily objects of thy bounty, and do continue still the living monuments of thy goodness. Where thy glorious perfections check and forbid our approaches, thy gracious attributes invite and encourage our applications unto thee, and embolden us to look upon thee, as our most kind and merciful Father in Jesus Christ. And though we have great and many sins to confess, yet will we confess them, in hopes of thy pardon of them, and of power from on high, to enable us against them.

Thou didst create us, O Lord, after thy own blessed image, in an holy and happy estate: but we have made ourselves vile and miserable, quite unlike the thing which at first we came out of thy hands; averse to good, prone to evil, and so very full of provocation, that it is thy wonderful patience with us, and loving kindness to us, that thou hast not, long before this time, cut us off in our sins, and shut us up under final despair of thy mercy. But thou hast so far declared thy willingness to be reconciled even

to thy enemies, that thou hast sent thy only Son into the world, upon the great errand of our salvation: that whosoever believe in him, should not perish in their sins, but have everlasting life, for his sake. O Lord, we believe, help our unbelief: and give us the true repentance towards God, and the right faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; that we may be of the number of those who do indeed repent and believe, to the saving of the soul.

And save us, O good Lord, from our sinful selves, and from the love and course of this present evil world, and from every self-destroying way which we are tempted to follow. Make us a way to escape out of all the snares of temptation, wherewith we have been entangled and held, and sore let and hindered in running the race set before us. And make thy ways plain before us, and so full of invitations to us, that we may be thoroughly convinced of their goodness and excellence, and resolvedly give up ourselves to follow them: that our own experience in the way of goodness may be more to keep and engage us to it, than all the allurements and discouragements in the world to put us beside it. Establish, O Lord, and strengthen and settle us; that going forth in thy strength, we may do thy will to all well-pleasing; and continue in thy fear and love to our lives' end.

Which things we beg not for ourselves alone, but also in behalf of all whom we ought to intreat thy mercy for in our prayers. O bring nigh unto thee all those that are yet afar off; and make manifest the savor of thy knowledge in every place: that such as yet sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, may come to see the light of thy truth, and the joy of thy salvation. O that every one who names the name of Christ may depart from iniquity, and so live up to their high and holy profession, that they may give no

just occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme; but adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things, and to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men by well doing.

Be gracious and favorable, O Lord, in an especial manner to thy church. Arise, O God, and plead thy own cause, and maintain thy true and holy religion, which thou hast so long and so wonderfully owned and asserted. O let not the enemies of thy church ever have cause to say, that they have prevailed against thy people: but let all that do espouse thy cause, and stand up for the honor and defence of thy truth, be still prevalent and prosperous in all their pious designs; and still have cause to say, the Lord be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of his servants.

Bless, with the choicest of thy blessings, the President of these United States.* O Lord, protect his person, direct his counsels, make his administration easy and happy, both to himself and us; and prosper all his undertakings and endeavors for the public safety, peace and welfare of these states. Give all magistrates wisdom and courage to defend the truth, and to do right to all. Make ministers an example to the flock, in all sobriety, righteousness and holiness of living; and establish us all an holy people to thyself: granting us one heart, and one way, that we may all agree in the same faith, and adorn it with a suitable life.

Comfort all that want the comforts which we enjoy: and apply thyself in a way of agreeable mercy, to the several necessities and calamities of all thy afflicted ones, wheresoever or howsoever they are tried. Remember, with the favor which thou

* In the English copy, were these words: "the King whom thou hast put in authority over us."

bearest to thy people, all our friends and benefactors, our kindred after the flesh, and whosoever are dear to us, on any other account. Make them, O Lord, such as thou wouldst have them, and such as, in Christ Jesus, thou wilt mercifully accept of them, here to thy gracious favor, and hereafter to thy glorious kingdom. Forgive our enemies, and turn their hearts; and turn ours to forgive them. And direct all our ways to please thee, that thou mayest make even our enemies to be at peace with us.

Hear us, O God of the spirits of all flesh! hear us for ourselves and others; others for themselves and us: and hear the Son of thy love, the Lover of our souls, for us and all the members of thy church militant here on earth, whereof Christ Jesus in heaven is the glorious head. For him and to him with thine eternal self, most holy Father, and the blessed Spirit of grace, our Guide and Comforter, be all thanks, and praise, and honor, and glory, humbly and heartily rendered and ascribed of us, and all thy people, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

## *Another Evening Prayer for a Family.*

OUR ever blessed and most gracious God! thou art the Lord and Giver of our lives and hopes, and of all our enjoyments and comforts. To thee we do owe ourselves, and all that ever we are capable of rendering and ascribing. For by thee, O Lord, we were created and have our being; and through thy good providence it is, that we still have been spared and preserved, and cared and provided for, throughout our whole lives, unto this present time. From thee, our God, comes all our help, and in thee is reposed all our hope. Thou art the bountiful Giver of all the good that our souls de-

sire, and the merciful Withholder of all the evils that our sins deserve. We acknowledge thy great and daily goodness to us, and our own exceeding unworthiness of the least of all thy mercies. We take shame and confusion to ourselves, that we have so little improved, and so greatly abused, all thy patience with us, and all the various instances of thy bounty to us. For even thy mercies help to inflame the heavy reckoning of our offences, because we have done so much against thee, after all the great things thou hast done for us. We desire, O Lord, to be penitent, and humbled for our sins; and to entreat thy gracious favor in Jesus Christ, for the pardon of them. Forgive us, we pray thee, for his sake, all the sins that ever we have committed against thee, and absolve us from all the evils whereof we now stand guilty before thee. And being justified by faith, grant us peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

And we pray that thou wilt be to us a Father of mercies, and a God of consolation; so that thou wilt make us followers of God, as dear children; ever jealous over our hearts, and watchful over our ways; continually fearing to offend, and endeavoring to please thee; and keeping our hearts with all diligence, that they may not be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Thou knowest, O Lord, our weakness, and danger of temptation; our danger from the cruel, subtle enemy of our souls; and from this present world that is so full of snares; and from our own vile flesh and deceitful hearts, so apt to betray us into the enemy's hands: we pray, therefore, good Lord, that thou wilt arm us with the whole armor of God, and uphold us with thy free Spirit, and watch over us for good evermore. Especially in the times of our sorest trials, let us expe-

rience the strongest aids of thy heavenly grace, that we may never fall a miserable prey to those deadly enemies that seek to devour us.

And teach us, our God, to know the day of grace, and the time of our visitation, and to see the things of our peace, and duly to mind and settle the great eternal affairs of our souls, in this our day, before they be hid from our eyes. And while we have time, O enable us to use and improve it, to those great ends for which thou art pleased to put that precious talent into our hands, that we may make the short and uncertain stay which we have here, an opportunity of securing to ourselves a sure and everlasting well-being, when we shall depart from hence.

And seeing thou art pleased yet to hold our souls in life, and to make us find and feel, by every day's experience, how abundantly gracious and merciful thou art, with much patience and long-suffering, enduring us, and with loving kindness and manifold blessings, still preventing and following us. O give us hearts more sensible of thy love, more affected with thy mercy, and more thankful for those continued favors which thou art pleased to multiply upon us. And help us to show forth thy praise and the truth of our thanks, not only in speaking good of the name of God, but so ordering our conversations as becomes the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And to thy mercy in him, most merciful Father, we do now humbly recommend ourselves, and all that we are, and have, this present night: beseeching thee to preserve and defend, and bless and keep us, both in soul and body, from all evils and dangers, to which the weakness of our frame, and the greatness of our sins, do expose us. And grant us such comfortable repose, whereby our frail nature

may be refreshed, and our decayed strength recovered, that we may rise again better fitted and enabled to serve thee according to thy will in all the duties of the following day, if thou shalt be pleased to make addition of another day to our lives. And as thou addest days and mercies, be pleased also to add repentance and amendment to our lives; that, as we come nearer to our end, we may be made still fitter to the enjoyment of thy heavenly kingdom; that every day may bring us still so much nearer to those everlasting joys and glories which thou hast prepared for them that love thee. And for all the good things that ever we have had, and do at present enjoy, and yet hope for from thy bountiful hands, thine, O blessed glorious Lord our God, be the praise, and honor, and glory, offered up with all grateful hearts, by us, and the whole church, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A third Evening Prayer.*

O LORD, thou art our gracious God, our chiefest good, and our most merciful Father in Jesus Christ: in whose great name, and prevailing mediation, alone it is, that we, who have multiplied our offences against thee, are encouraged still to present our persons, and our prayers here before thee. It is a privilege which we must acknowledge ourselves utterly unworthy to enjoy, that thou shouldst admit us into thy service: yea into fellowship with thy blessed self. We durst not appear in the presence of such a holy glorious Majesty, in our own names, or trusting in any merits or righteousness in ourselves; being conscious to so much of our sin and guilt, as may make us ashamed to come before thy face, and to tremble for fear of thy judg-

ments. But we come in the name and mediation of thy dear Son, whom thou dost infinitely love above all, who has fully satisfied thy justice for our sins, and does continually intercede at thy right hand for our souls; whom thou delightest to honor in sparing, accepting, and saving poor unworthy sinners upon his account. O deliver us, most gracious Lord, for his sake, from all our transgressions, for which our hearts condemn us: and from all, of which thou, that art greater than our hearts, knowest us to be guilty. And seal to us a pardon, in his most precious blood, which speaks better things in our behalf, than we are able to do ourselves, in all our prayers.

And may the time past of our lives suffice to have lived to ourselves, and to have served our own lusts and pleasures. O put an end to all our presumptuous and treacherous dealings with thy heavenly all-seeing Majesty; and grant us new and clean, humble and contrite hearts, to tremble at thy word and presence, and to hate and abandon all our foolish and sinful misdoings. And wilt thou engage to thyself, O blessed Lord, the best and frequentest thoughts of our minds, the chief and choicest affections of our hearts, and the main tendency and activity of our souls: O let us be taken up with such content and delight in attendance upon thee, and communion with thee, that the most tempting things of this world may not pull us down into an inordinate or immoderate love of them; nor disturb and hinder us in the pursuit of what our faith foresees, and what thy love has prepared for, and promised to thy servants.

Hear us, O Lord, for ourselves, and let our supplications also ascend before thee in the behalf of all men living. Send thy word, and the means of grace

to such as are yet destitute of them; and make them efficacious, and the savor of life in those that do enjoy them. Convert the unconverted, and perfect thy good work where thou hast begun it. Give a check from heaven to all profaneness, vice and ungodliness, that presumptuous sinners may be ashamed, and the wickedness of the wicked may come to an end. O make thy church to increase and flourish, and thy servants to prevail and rejoice. Be gracious and favorable to this land, and to the head and governors thereof, and to all inferior and particular members of it. O do thou rule all our rulers, counsel all our counsellors, teach all our teachers, and turn and order all our public affairs, to the glory of thy name, to the welfare of thy church, and to the happiness of this nation. Avert from us, we beseech thee, the judgments which we feel or fear, and continue to us the blessings and comforts for our bodies, and especially the helps and advantages for our souls, which through thy favor we do enjoy. And notwithstanding all the devices of the enemies of our peace, and all the great and crying provocations of our sins, O be thou still our God, and let us be thy people.

Think thoughts of pity and compassion to all the sons and daughters of affliction. O sanctify thy fatherly corrections to them, support them under their several burthens, and in thy good time deliver them from all the pressures that are upon them. Be good to all our friends and neighbors, reward our benefactors, bless our relations with the best of thy blessings, making them near to thyself by grace, as they are to us by alliance. Preserve us from our enemies, and reconcile them both to us and to thyself. O that all the habitations of Christians may be houses of prayer, and be thou especially kind to the sev-

eral families where thy blessed name is called upon. Let thy heavenly blessings, and thy saving grace descend and rest upon us here in this family. O guide us, and keep us; make us wise and faithful in our duty, and prosperous and blessed in the issue. Bless all our present estates to us, and fit us all for whatsoever thou shalt be pleased to call us to. O teach us how to want and how to abound; and both in a prosperous and suffering condition, secure our hearts to thyself, and make us ever to approve ourselves sincere and faithful in thy service.

And now, O Lord, be pleased to accept our evening sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, to thee the Father of mercies, and fountain of all goodness, for the mercies of the day past, and for thy great mercy and goodness, that has hitherto followed us all the days of our life.—For our lives have been filled with thy mercies, and thou hast abounded towards us in loving kindness, and variety of thy sweet and comfortable blessings, pertaining to this world, and a better; passing by our innumerable sins, as if thou sawest them not, thou goest on still to oblige us with new favors. O, dear Lord, imprint and preserve upon our hearts a lively and grateful sense and remembrance of all thy kindness unto us, that our souls may bless thee, and all that is within us may praise thy holy name.

Yea, let us give thee thanks from the ground of the heart, and praise our God, whilst we have our being. And for all thy patience with us, thy care over us, and thy continual mercy to us, blessed be thy name, O Lord God, our heavenly Father: and unto thee be all thanks, and praise, and love, and obedience, and honor, and glory, offered by us and all thine, every where, now and evermore. *Amen.*

## *A fourth Evening Prayer.*

O LORD, the infinite, incomprehensible God, who art before all, art above all, and wilt be for ever the same, when time shall be no more! Thou hast heaven for thy throne and the earth for thy footstool; and all the things in both, continually in thy sight, and at thy disposal. Thou art the Searcher of our hearts, and the Overseer of our whole lives, here and every where present; and now and evermore thou seest us, and compasseth our path, and our lying down, and art thoroughly acquainted with all our ways. Thou knowest, O Lord, the dulness and hardness, the vanity and deceitfulness of our hearts; how much ado we have to bring and keep them in an holy frame, fit to attend upon thy heavenly Majesty. For that we were born sinners, and so have lived and continued; and by custom of sinning, and still adding sin unto sin, we have made ourselves more the children of wrath than we are by nature; transgressing thy holy, good and righteous laws, abusing thy great and manifold mercies, tempting thy patience, despising thy goodness, offending thee more, even for thy long forbearance with us, and making the very abundance of thy grace our encouragement to continue in our sins. So that the least of all those mercies which we do enjoy, is far above any thing that we have reason to expect, at the hands of that God whom we have so greatly provoked. And justly mightest thou, O Lord, withdraw thy tender mercies from us, and pour out thy wrath and indignation to the uttermost upon us; making us to find and feel by woful experience, what an evil and bitter thing it is to trespass upon thee, as we have done. Thou mightest make us

experience the same, in the place of torment, and outward darkness, where is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, and from whence there is no redemption.

But thou art a God of wonderful patience to bear with sinners; and a God of infinite goodness and mercy, to forgive the sins of all them that are penitent. Thou hast said, that if the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and return to the Lord, thou wilt have mercy upon him, and abundantly pardon. But, O Lord, thou knowest that without thee we cannot so much as come unto thee, unless thou meet us with thy heavenly grace and help us with thy almighty assistance. We humbly beg, therefore, that thou wilt be graciously pleased to stretch forth thy powerful and merciful hand, to loose the captive chain wherein our sins have entangled our souls. And let it be thy gracious pleasure, O blessed Lord, to set us free from every weight of sin and yoke of bondage, that lies heavy upon our souls, and unfits us to serve thee with that sincerity, and readiness, and gladness, which thou requirest of thy people. O help us so to see and feel, so to hate and bewail, and confess and forsake our sins, that we may have the well-grounded apprehension, and the comfortable persuasion of thy forgiveness of them; thy acceptance of us, and thy love to us in the blessed Son of thy eternal love.

And for his sake, wilt thou grant us, O Lord, the increase of thy grace, and such aids of thy holy Spirit, as may enable us to subdue our sins, and fit us for all the duties of thy service, which either we have neglected, or but unduly and faultily performed. That we may serve thee, our God, sincerely without hypocrisy; cheerfully, without dulness;

universally, without partiality; and constantly, without falling away, or being weary of well-doing. Thou art not weary to do us good; O let us never be weary to do thee service. But as thou hast pleasure in the prosperity of thy servants, so let us take pleasure in the service of our Lord, and abound in thy work, and in thy love and praise evermore. O fill up all that is wanting, and reform whatever is amiss in us, and perfect that which concerns us; making us such in our hearts, and in our lives, towards thee, our God, that we may obtain thy blessed peace here, and thy heavenly glory hereafter. And be thou pleased to grant us now, out of the riches of thy grace, the comfortable sense of thy gracious acceptance of us, and thy merciful intentions towards us. O speak peace to our consciences, and say to our souls, thou art our salvation; that we may look upon thee, our God, as a reconciled Father to us in Jesus Christ.

In his great name, and prevailing mediation, we enlarge our petitions, in behalf of the whole race of mankind, that are now with us alive upon earth. O that all the ends of the world may remember themselves, and turn to the Lord, and see the salvation of our God! Do good, O God, in thy good pleasure to Zion, and build thou the walls of Jerusalem, that we may see the good of it all the days of our life. Continue thy mercies to this sinful land, whereof we are sinful members. Teach us to know the meaning of thy dispensations to us; and help us to improve by all thy dealings with us. O turn all our hearts to thee, as the heart of one man: and reform all our lives, according to the holy pattern and precepts of our Lord, that thou mayest cause thy anger towards us to cease; and go on still to take care of us, and never leave nor forsake us.

Bless abundantly, we humbly beseech thee, thy servant, the President of the United States, and all others in authority; and so replenish them with the grace of thy holy Spirit, that they may always incline to thy will and walk in thy way: Endue them plentiously with heavenly gifts; and grant them in health and prosperity long to live:* And grant unto all ministers of thy gospel continual supplies of all needful gifts and graces of thy holy Spirit, for the faithful and comfortable discharge of their several duties. O bring all our neighbors near to thyself; and be thou a friend to all our friends, a father to the fatherless, a husband to the widow, a refuge to the oppressed, a physician to the sick, a helper to the friendless, a God of consolation to the distressed and sorrowful, whatever be their trouble and affliction. O bless to us, whatever thou art pleased to allot us, and every thing that befals us. Make all work for our good: to build us up in thy grace, and to help us on to thy glory.

And as thou hast been good and kind to us the day past, and throughout our whole lives: for which we desire, O Lord, humbly and thankfully to admire thy love, and to bless thy name: so we beg that we may experience the continuance of thy gracious goodness, to us, and thy fatherly care over us, this present night. O preserve and defend, and bless and keep us, that no evil may befal us, nor any

* In the English copy the reading of the preceding part of this paragraph is in the following words: "Bless abundantly the King's Majesty, who now sways the sceptre of these realms. O Lord preserve his life, prolong his days, and prosper his government. Give him the hearts of his subjects, and the necks of his enemies. Make him the rejoicing of thy people, and a terror only to evil-doers. O continue him long a zealous defender of the faith, a promoter of thy fear, and assertor of our rights, that under his shadow we may be in peace and safety, enjoying the liberty of the gospel, and the free profession and establishment of thy true and holy religion."

plague come nigh our dwelling. Give us sleep and rest to refresh and strengthen us for thy service, and our duty: and prepare us, O Lord, for our last sleep, in death, and for our departure out of this mortal life, and those great accounts that we must make before the judgment-seat of Jesus Christ. O instruct us, and assist us, in that great work of preparation for our everlasting condition; that we may, in this only time of preparation, finish the great work which thou hast given us to do, before the night of death overtake us, wherein we cannot work. That, whenever thou shalt be pleased to give us the summons of death, we may find nothing to do but to die, and cheerfully resign our spirits into thy gracious hands, who gavest them to us, through the riches of thy grace, and the worthiness of thy Son; in whose merits alone we trust, and for all that he has so wonderfully effected, to recover and help us, and to obtain eternal redemption for us, to thy name, O blessed God of our salvation, be the praise, and honor, and glory, given by us and all thy people, from this time forth for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A fifth Evening Prayer.*

O LORD, we desire to seek thy face, and to wait upon thee in the duties of thy worship; intreating thy gracious favor with our whole hearts, that we may do all as we ought, with good acceptance to our God. And to whom should we make our applications, but unto thee, the Father of mercies and the fountain of all goodness, who art able to do exceeding abundantly for us, even above all that we can ask or think; and who hast declared thy willingness to be importuned and solicited by us;

and thy readiness to hear, and help, and answer us, in those things which we beg at thy gracious and bountiful hands, in the name and mediation of our great Lord and Saviour: O let our prayer be set before thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands be as the evening sacrifice, pleasing to thee our God, in the Son of thy love. It is in his blessed name alone, that we have the encouragement and boldness to beg of thy infinite goodness all that thou knowest to be needful and expedient for us; seeing there is in ourselves no good thing to recommend us to thy favor and acceptance; but a proneness and inclination to what is displeasing in thy eyes, and destructive to our souls. For besides that we were by nature the children of wrath, a seed of evil-doers, the sinful offspring of rebellious parents; we have been daily trespassing upon thee, and still adding to the heavy score of our offences against thee. There is nothing in us, O Lord, but what may provoke thee to reject us: but there is enough in thy beloved Son, of all grace and goodness, to move thee mercifully to accept us. He was made sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him; and that we might be saved through faith in his merits, where we could not be saved by any desert of our own works. O see our sins punished in our Saviour, who was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities: and as the chastisement of our peace was upon him, so let the merits of his righteousness be upon us; and by his stripes let our souls be healed.

Nor do we only beg for pardon of our sins, but also for power against them, and grace sufficient for us to break them off, and to walk more pleasingly before thee, in all the ways and duties of righteousness and holiness, which thy word prescribes to us.

O never suffer us to be tempted above what we are able; but make our temptations less, or thy grace in us, and our spiritual strength, still greater than all our temptations; that no iniquities may prevail against us, nor any presumptuous sin have dominion over us. O make us more conformable to the pattern and the precepts of our Saviour; and more transformed into his holy image and likeness: that we may not profess the religion of Jesus Christ to the wrong and disparagement of it; nor make the way of truth, by reason of us, to be evil spoken of; but let our light shine before men, to the glory of thee our heavenly Father, and to the edification of those with whom we have our conversation.

And seeing the time of our abode in this transitory world is so very short and uncertain, and we have an everlasting estate to abide in after our departure hence; where we must be happy or miserable eternally, according to what we do now in the body: O let us not here set up our rest, as if we were at home upon earth, nor flatter ourselves with the thoughts of long life, or sure enjoyment of any of those things that perish in the using; but all the days of our appointed time, may we wait till our change comes; and not only live in expectation of it, but in the daily serious preparation for it; in the exercise of all those graces and good works that may make it unto us Christ to live, and gain to die! that in life and death we may be always thine; still safe in thy hands, and acceptable in thy sight.

And together with our own, we commend to thy mercy, O God of the spirits of all flesh, the necessities and distresses of all our brethren throughout the world. O enlighten the ignorant, quicken the careless, awake the secure, convince the erroneous, reclaim the vicious, establish the unsettled, and com-

fort the dejected. Bring all to the knowledge and love of thy truth, and to the participation of thy grace, and the obedience of Christ; and so to the blessed hope of thy heavenly glory, and to the eternal salvation of our souls. We pray, as more particularly bound, for all our magistrates and ministers of the gospel; and all our friends and relations; and all thy servants, and all the afflicted every where; especially those for whose happiness and salvation thou knowest us to be chiefly concerned. O do thou for us, and for them, as thou knowest best, and most needful and expedient, for thy own mercy's sake in Jesus Christ.

As we pray to thee for what we want, so we desire to praise thee for all that we have received at thy hands. And blessed be thy name, O Lord, that we have any thing, yea that we have so many things, to bless and praise thee for. O what shall we render to the Lord for all his benefits! What can we give to thee our God, but the glory of thy own gifts and goodness unto us. O dear Lord! let not our hearts be shut and straitened towards thee, whose hand is every day so open unto us; but do thou possess and enlarge these hearts of ours with more and greater love and thankfulness to thee, that hast so abounded in mercy and loving kindness towards us, that we may give thee thanks with all our hearts, and glorify thy name for evermore.

And now that the night is upon us, and we are ready to betake ourselves to our rest, we commit ourselves to thy gracious protection, who never sleepest nor slumberest, but hast still a watchful eye open upon thy people. O watch over us, our God, we pray thee for good, that none of the evils or harms which our sins have deserved may befal us. Preserve us from the works, and from the powers of

darkness, and from all the terrors and dangers of the night. Let all our sins, to-day, or any time heretofore committed, be removed out of thy sight, and show us the light of thy countenance, O Lord, to refresh us with the sense of thy blessed love and favor, in our dear Redeemer: for whom, and to whom, with thy eternal self, and Holy Spirit, be all thanks and praise, and honor, and glory, ascribed of us and all thy church, from this time forth, world without end. *Amen.*

## *A sixth Evening Prayer.*

O LORD, our God, most high and mighty, most wise and holy, thou art and good! Thou art, and for ever wast, and for ever shall continue, unspeakably blessed and glorious, above all that we are able to express or to conceive. Thou dost not need the services of men or angels to make the least addition to thy glory and bliss. Men cannot be profitable unto God: our goodness will not extend to the Lord. But in kindness and love to our souls it is, that thou art pleased to lay thy commands upon us, to wait upon thee in these duties of thy immediate service; which is the blissful employment of all the glorious host of heaven. Thou humblest thyself even to behold the things that are in heaven, to take notice of the worship of those blessed creatures above. O how wonderful is thy condescension than, to look down upon us, poor sinful worms, that dwell here in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust! Lord, what is man that thou takest knowledge of him, and the son of man that thou makest account of him! Thou canst not at all need us, nor any thing of ours, O blessed God: but we all do stand in great and continual need of thee, our only sovereign good: in need

of thy mercy and forgiveness, thy grace and guidance, thy blessing and assistance; without which we could never hope to escape the curses and miseries which are the due wages of our sins; nor ever to attain unto that glory and blessedness, which are the free gifts of God in Jesus Christ.

The desire of our souls, therefore, is to thy name, O Lord, and to the remembrance of thee. Our eyes are towards thee, and all our expectation is from thee: and still we wait, and call, and depend upon thee, till thou have mercy upon us, according to our several necessities; and according to the riches of thy grace, and the multitude of thy mercies. O remember not against us our former iniquities: enter not into judgment with us, according to the desert of our sins: but according to thy mercy remember thou us: For thy goodness' sake, O Lord, blot out our trangressions as a cloud: and justify us freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ. And bless us, holy God of our salvation, in turning us from all our iniquities, and giving us grace, to repent and amend our lives according to thy holy word.

And to this end, be thou pleased to enlighten our darkened minds with the beams of thy saving truth, that we may not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is—And reform our depraved wills, inclining them to a cheerful and ready compliance with all the motions of thy good Spirit. Regulate our unruly passions; purify our corrupt affections; and convert all the faculties of our souls, to be instruments of thy glory, as they have been of thy dishonor: and make our bodies fit temples for thy holy Spirit to dwell in. Yea, sanctify us wholly, that we may, as we ought, sanctify thy blessed name.

And quicken us, O Lord, to hear thy voice

while it is called to-day: that we may make haste, and not delay to keep thy commandments. O keep us frequently and affectionately mindful of the shortness of our time, the frailty of our lives, and the uncertainty of our being here in this mutable world, that so soon passeth away, and where we have no continuing city; but are strangers and sojourners with thee, as all our fathers before us were. O let the remembrance and consideration of this have such a prevailing influence upon us, as to crucify the world to us, and make us more concerned for our everlasting welfare, and more careful to improve every present enjoyment to our soul's eternal advantage; and to grow holier still as we grow older; that the days which pass over us may not leave us, without any amendment wrought upon us; but that the work of thy grace may go on successfully upon our hearts, till it has made us ripe and ready for the joys and glories of thy kingdom.

The same things also we beg in behalf of all that ought to share in our prayers. O forgive the sins, and relieve the miseries of thy poor creatures every where. Enlarge the borders of thy church, and make additions to it daily of such as shall be saved. O that all who are called Christians, may be truly christian, both in their right believing and their holy living. Advance the interest, and extend the limits of thy Son's kingdom, and may all nations flow into it, as to their rest. Bless our land, and endue our rulers,* and those who direct our public affairs, with wisdom from on high. Give our judges the spirit of discernment, and aid and countenance our magistrates in the faithful execution of their office. Make them all men fearing God, and eschewing evil.—

* Varied from the English copy; where the petition is for "the King, that he may judge thy people righteously, &c."

And O that all who are called to serve at thy altar, may be blessed with skilful heads, and compassionate hearts, and exemplary lives. Make them wise to win souls, and faithful, industrious and successful in their sacred office, as workmen that need not be ashamed. Bless and prosper all the places of good learning and education; and make all this people the Lord's people; that they may all know thee from the greatest to the least; and so order their conversation aright, that they may see the salvation of God. Remember them all for good; who have been any way instruments of our good, such as have done us good, O Lord, reward them: and all that have, or would hurt us, O Lord forgive them. Give unto all that mourn in Zion, beauty for ashes, the oil of gladness for mourning, and the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness. And in the time of our health and peace, and prosperity, O that we may remember, and provide for, the time of trouble and sickness, and death; when all worldly succors will fail us; and the greatest powers on earth cannot deliver us out of thy hands. O make us now so mindful of out duty that then thou mayest remember in mercy; and be with us and support us, and never leave nor forsake us.

Our own unworthiness would make us despair of obtaining all these great and good things which we beg at thy hands, O Lord; But the remembrance of thy continual bounty, and how much we are every day receiving from thee, puts life into our hopes, and encouragement into our prayers, and leaves us no reason to doubt of such tried mercy. And blessed for ever be thy name, that we have so much to say of thy goodness, by our own experience of the innumerable blessings thou art daily bestowing upon us. O good Lord! continue such thy

gracious favor to us, and thy fatherly care over us this night. As we go to rest after the labors of the day, so help us to do thy work that we may enter into that rest which remains for thy people in the close of this life. And so discharge us from our sins, and supply us still with thy grace, that we may finish our course with joy, and in the end of our lives find the greatest of all mercy, to be received into thy glory: Which we beg for the all-sufficient merits of our only Redeemer: For whom, and to whom, with thee, O everlasting Father, and the Holy Ghost the Comforter, in the unity of the ever glorious Trinity, be all praise, and honor and glory ascribed of us, and of all the Israel of God, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A seventh Evening Prayer.*

O LORD, the great and glorious God, infinite in power, wisdom and goodness: the wonderful maker and preserver, ruler and disposer, of us and of all the world! thou hast created all things by thy Almighty hand! sustainest and orderest all that thou hast made by thy wise and righteous Providence: and thy mercy is everlasting, and over all thy works. O who is able to express or conceive the exceeding riches of that grace and goodness of the Lord, which in such a plentiful measure is still descending and overflowing upon poor sinful creatures, who deserve nothing from thee but to be forsaken and abhorred by thee! This day, and every day of our lives, O Lord, we have tasted largely of thy mercy, and lived altogether still upon thy fatherly care and bounty.

But notwithstanding all thy patience and gracious dealings with us, and all the repeated pledges of thy favor and kindness to us; O how ill have we requi-

ted thy love! And what unsuitable returns have we made for all thy great and continued goodness that we have found! Beside the guilt of our inbred corruption, which, as a sore clog, hangs heavy upon us: we are amazed at the greatness and multitude of all our other sins that we have committed against the light and teachings of thy gospel, against the dictates and strivings of thy Spirit, and the love and sufferings of thy Son: against all the patience and long forbearance which thou hast exercised towards us: and against the many mercies and methods of our conversion and sanctification, wherewith from time to time, thou hast sought to make us such as thy word requires we should be. O Lord, we have given thee so great provocation, that we are afraid lest thou shouldst forsake us utterly, and cause the day of thy patience to be at an end with us, and grant us no more of thy grace which we have so greatly abused, no more of thy holy Spirit, which we have so frequently refused. And what have we now but judgment to expect from thee, O Lord, but that thy mercy rejoices over judgment! And thy word assures us, that thou delightest not in the death of sinners, but rather that they should turn to thee and live. Therefore still thou leavest us these opportunities to appear before thee, to plead with our God, for the life of souls that have sinned against thee. And what have we to plead, O blessed Lord, but thy own gracious nature, and merciful inclinations, and the many promises and declarations of thyself which thou hast made to returning sinners in Jesus Christ! Thou hast sent thine only Son to be our only Saviour: And he that did no sin was manifested to take away our sins. O for his sake be thou pleased to pity us, and spare us, and forgive us. Turn away thy wrath from us: receive us to

thy blessed favor; and comfort us with the sure persuasion, that our great and many sins are remitted.

And because such is the infirmity of our nature, that without thy grace we have not the least power to keep ourselves even from the greatest sins; O grant us the increase of thy grace, and such help of thy good Spirit, as may fortify us against all temptation, and make us willing and faithful, and diligent in thy service. And be pleased, O Lord, yet further to discover and manifest thyself to our souls, that we may know aright thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. And give us power from on high to enable us so to live and practise, according to that light and knowledge of our duty which thou art pleased to impart unto us, that we may not hold the truth in unrighteousness, knowing the better, and doing the worse, but may walk in the light, as children of light, while we have it; that we may never in judgment be deprived of it. O let us not only be almost, but altogether Christians: sincere converts, true penitents, and sound believers. And wilt thou, O God, that workest all in all, do that work of thy grace, thoroughly upon all our hearts; for which we may have cause to give thee praise and glory to all eternity.

Which things we beg not only for ourselves, but for all the partakers of our nature, whom thou hast made to share in our hopes and capacities of eternal happiness; especially for thy whole church, wheresoever or howsoever disposed of over all the earth: For all in authority from the highest even to the lowest: For our ministers and teachers: For our relations and neighbors; our friends and benefactors: And for all thy afflicted, whatsoever be their trials and troubles. O supply all their wants, and

fulfil all their desires, so as thy wisdom sees best, for thy own mercy's sake in Jesus Christ.

Thou, Lord, art the great Preserver of men, who hast kept and blessed us to-day, and all our days. Praised be thy name for all thy goodness, which we so long and largely have experienced. O make us sensible and thankful, as we are obliged to be. Take care of us, O Lord, and be good to us this night. Give us bodily rest in our beds, and rest for our souls in thyself. And be thou our God and guide, our hope and help, our joy and comfort, and all in all to us this night, and for evermore. *Amen.*

## *Morning Prayer for the Lord's Day.*

O MOST blessed and gracious Lord our God, whose Almighty hand has brought us out of nothing, to what we are; to see the light, and enjoy the comforts of life: And whose free grace has called us out of a state worse than nothing to the hope of thy heavenly glory! We bless thy name, that thou hast conducted us safe, through all states and events, and through all the trials and troubles in our lives, to see the comfortable light of this day: and that we have yet a day of grace wherein to see the things belonging to our peace. We bless thee that thou hast so far consulted the good of our souls, as well as the glory of thy name, in setting apart this day for holy uses, to engage us to a solemn attendance upon the Lord: in whose service consists all our honor and happiness. O how much higher might we have been in grace, and thy blessed favor—how much nearer to thee our God, and fitter for thy heavenly kingdom, had we rightly used, and conscientiously improved those seasons and means of grace, which thou hast been pleased to put into our hands, for the best advantage of our souls.

But we have been unkind and cruel to our own souls, as well as disobedient and rebellious against our Lord; many times frustrating the opportunities of appearing before thee; shunning and neglecting the duties of thy holy service: And even when we have set ourselves to seek thy face, it has been with such coldness and dulness, rudeness and distractions, that thou mightest justly abhor our souls, despise our prayers, and cast back all our services in our faces, for any thing that there is in us or them, to recommend us to thy blessed favor and acceptance.

But be thou pleased to look upon us in the Son of thy love, the Lord our peace and righteousness; and forgive us all that is past wherein we have neglected thy work, or ill-performed it, or done what is inconsistent with it. Help us, O God of our salvation, and deliver us from the bands and the burthen of our guilt; and purge away all our sins, for the glory of thy name: That they may not stand as a partition-wall, to hinder the desire of our souls from ascending up to thee; nor hinder the light of thy countenance from descending upon us. But let thy peace, and love, and favor shine on our souls; that we may see the felicity of thy chosen, and with joy draw water out of the wells of salvation.

O let us not rest in any forms of godliness, denying the power thereof; nor take up with the name and shew, and the profession of christianity, but be swayed with its life, and power and spirit: that the gospel of our Lord, and the graces of the good Spirit of God, may shine forth in our lives, to the glory of thee our heavenly Father; and to the adorning of the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. O gracious God, be with us, and with all the ministers and stewards of thy holy things, who are this day to speak thy word to thy people; and furnish them

with abilities suitable to their great work, that they may fitly apply themselves to the capacities, and to the necessities of their several hearers. And grant, Lord, unto us, and unto all the hearers of thy holy word, humble and teachable spirits; to receive thy truth in meekness, and in the love of it, so as to profit and grow by it. O do thou remove all the hindrances of our spiritual growth and improvement, that thy word may have free course and be glorified among us. And let us this day go forth in the strength of the Lord God; and prosper and increase with the increase of God, by thy grace and blessing accompanying our desires and endeavors; till from serving thee imperfectly here upon earth, we may attain to glorify and enjoy thee our God, in the perfection of holiness, and in those everlasting joys and glories of thy kingdom, which thou hast prepared for them that love thee.

And let thy grace and blessing, thy love and fellowship, thy direction and assistance, O heavenly Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us and with all whom we ought to beg thy mercy for in our prayers, this day, and for evermore. *Amen.*

## *Another Morning Prayer for the Lord's Day.*

O LORD, the great Almighty God, thou art the giver of life and strength, and of all grace and goodness; without whom we can do nothing; and through whose gracious assistance it is, that we are enabled to do all things belonging to thy service and our duty: We humbly pray, that thou wilt be graciously present with us, and powerfully assistant unto us this day, to direct and quicken, and enable, and further us in all the ways and duties of thy holy service. O forgive our iniquities, that separate be-

tween thee and our souls; and remember not the sins against us, which may justly provoke thee to hide thy face from us. But according to thy mercy, remember thou us, O Lord, and accept us, and our poor imperfect services, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

O leave us not to the dulness and hardness, the vanity and deceitfulness of our own depraved hearts: but shew the power of thy heavenly grace, in working mightily upon these hearts of ours: to bring and keep them in such a holy frame, that we may be fitter to attend upon thee, and perform more faithful and acceptable service to thee, and enjoy more of that heavenly communion with thee, which thou hast made us capable of; and which our souls will be for ever restless without. O let us not serve thee in formality and hypocrisy, making any duties of course the cover of a vain licentious life: But let our hearts and souls, and all that is within us, be taken up in a revered, faithful and affectionate attendance upon thee. Nor let us serve thee of constraint, only because we must; but with all readiness and gladness, and love and delight to be so engaged: Making thy pleasure to be ours, and the Sabbath and service of our Lord, the joy and solace of our souls. O help us so to sanctify thy day, that thy day may be a means to promote the sanctification of our souls. Let us bestow ourselves in exercises befitting the holy season; and not profane it to any vain and vicious purposes. But on the Lord's day may we abound in the work of the Lord; and not do our own work, nor find our own pleasure, nor speak our own words, in the day which thou hast hallowed for thyself; But rest from all our sinful ways, as well as from our common labors: and so delight ourselves in the Lord, that thou mayest give us the desires of our hearts.

And bless to us thy word, O gracious Father, and all the means of grace, which through thy favor we do enjoy, that we may not use the same in vain, nor to our hurt: but for the further informing of our minds, the reforming of our lives, and the saving of our souls; still growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; till we attain to be such as thy holy word requires we should be, in all holy conversation and godliness.

Great peace have they that love thy law, and nothing shall offend them. O dear Lord, increase our love to thy word, which the angels desire to look into, and make our souls pliable and submissive, to be turned and ruled by it, till we become in all things agreeable to it.

Bless us, our Father, and command a blessing upon all our pious designs and performances this day: and bless thy servants whom thou hast appointed to bless us in thy name, and to break the bread of life to our souls, that they may speak thy word as they ought to speak: and give to every one their portion in due season. And that thy word, which they deliver, may be to our conviction, edification, and comfort, and the savor of life to our souls. O thou that hast the key of David, and openest and no man shuttest, thou that speakest to the heart, and givest the increase; open to our understandings to receive thy truth, both in the light, and in the love of it. And set it home so powerfully upon our hearts, and root it so deep in our souls, that the fruits may be seen in our lives: We being not forgetful hearers but faithful doers of thy word.

And grant, O good God, that our services this day may be such, as may tend to our advantage and rejoicing, in the great day of thy appearing and glory: That we may so hallow these Sabbaths here

upon earth, that hereafter we may be admitted to the joyful celebration of the eternal Sabbatism in thy kingdom of heaven: there with all the church triumphant, to laud and magnify thy glorious name, and to enjoy thy love, and sing thy praise for ever. And for the addition of this Sabbath to all the rest, for the benefit of thy word, and the ordinances of thy worship, and all the means of grace, and hopes of thy eternal glory, to thee, the God of all grace, be the praise, and honor, and glory rendered by us, and by all thine, and from this time forth, and for evermore. *Amen.*

## *Evening Prayer for the Lord's Day.*

O LORD, our God! thou art infinitely good, and thou hast shewed us what is good, and what thou requirest of us for our own greatest good always; that it may go well with us, both now, and to all eternity. Thou sendest out thy light and thy truth amongst us, to make the way of life and salvation plain before us; and thou givest us many opportunities and advantages to quicken and further us in thy knowledge and service, and in that way of our duty which leads to the kingdom of thy glory. We have line upon line, and precept upon precept; thy messengers early and late, to open and apply thy word; and to give us calls and warnings, directions and exhortations, for the promoting of our edification here, and our salvation for ever. Thou hast not been wanting to us, O Lord, but we have been exceedingly wanting to ourselves, and to the duty which we owe unto our God! And O how little is it to be seen in our lives, how good and kind the Lord has been to our souls! How have we loved darkness rather than light, and chose to follow the

suggestions of our own foolish and hurtful lusts, rather than to be guided by the rules and prescriptions of thy holy blessed word, that has no design upon us, but to promote our present peace and our eternal bliss! And, because we have so little improved all the precious talents which thou hast put into our hands, thou mightest, O Lord, justly take away the gospel of thy kingdom from us, and give it to another people, that would bring forth fruits more worthy of it, and more answerable to it, than we have done. Because thou hast called, and we have refused; thou hast stretched forth thy hands, but we have not regarded; thou mightest therefore leave us to our own perverseness and impenitence, to add sin unto sin, till our iniquities became our ruin.

But, O Lord God, merciful and long-suffering! we humbly beseech thee that thou wilt not so enter into judgment with thy servants: but in mercy pardon all our contempt of thy word, and our not profiting by it, and all the means of grace that we have had. And teach and help us for the time to come, better to use and improve such gracious opportunities set before us, to the glory of thy name, and the true benefit of our souls. As the rain descends from heaven and returns not thither, but waters the earth, and makes it fruitful, so let not thy word return unto thee void; but accomplish thy good pleasure, and prosper in that whereunto thou art pleased to send it. O make it instrumental and effectual to work thy grace, where it is not: and to establish and increase it, where it is; to edify and build us all up in the true fear and love of God, and in the right knowledge and faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And though we cannot now find, upon the review of our services this day, that we have duly kept a day holy to the Lord; yet let not thy day, O

gracious God, be a lost day to us, nor thy word as water spilt on the ground: but may the Spirit cause thy word to do thy great and gracious work thoroughly and successfully upon all our hearts; for which we may have cause to give thee praise and glory to all eternity. And as we perceive how we ought to walk, and to please thee our God, so help us to walk more worthy of the Lord, unto all well-pleasing; increasing in thy saving knowledge: and being still more ready to, and more rich and fruitful in every good work, that is pleasing in thy sight through Jesus Christ.

At his hands, O Lord our God, we beg thy gracious acceptance of our humble returns of praise and thanksgiving, for all the blessings and favors spiritual and temporal, so freely conferred upon us, and so long vouchsafed and continued to us, even throughout our whole lives, until this present time. Thou has dealt graciously with us, O blessed Lord, and been exceedingly good and kind to us, not only beyond all that we had reason to expect from thee; but above all that we are able to express here before thee. We bless thy name our heavenly Father, that in so many respects thou hast made us to differ from multitudes in the world; who are destitute of those comforts and conveniences of this life, and means and hopes of a better, which through thy favor to us we do enjoy. We acknowledge thee in all; and we desire to ascribe unto thee the whole praise and glory of all. Especially our souls desire to bless thee for the mercies of all mercies, which thou hast shewed, and still art pleased to continue to our souls; particularly what we have received and experienced this day; thy house open to us; the word of salvation sounding in our ears, and the Spirit of God striving with our hearts; and helping

our infirmities, and enlightening our minds, and reviving our souls.

O that we may not receive the grace of God in vain; that all thy mercies may not be lost upon us: but that we may better answer the care and kindness of heaven, which we have so long and largely experienced, and that we may so thankfully receive and carefully improve thy distinguishing favors to us, and all thy bountiful dealings with us; that thou mayest not withdraw thy tender mercies from us, but still continue thy accustomed goodness to us, and increase thy grace and heavenly blessings upon us, and rejoice over us to do us good.

In mercy pass by all which in thy most pure and holy eyes, from which nothing is hid, have been amiss this day past, in any of our thoughts, desires, expressions or actions. O pardon our neglect of what we should have done, and our guilt of what we have misdone. Forgive the iniquities of our holy things: and enter not into judgment with us, even according to the best of our works and services; but overlook all our sins and failings, and imperfections, through our great Mediator and Redeemer; who does appear in the presence of God in our behalf, and ever lives at thy right hand, to make intercession for us. And for Jesus Christ, the blessed Author of all our hopes and happiness, and for all the comforts and good things of this life, and means and expectations of that eternal glorious life to come, which thou art pleased to give us, together with him; not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name be all the praise, and honor, and glory, humbly and heartily rendered and ascribed of us, and of all thy church, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

## *Another Evening Prayer for the Lord's Day.*

O LORD, thou art good to the soul that seeks thee; thou art full of invitation, and all the endearments of love, to draw and encourage poor sinners to come unto thee. Thou dost not bid us seek thy face in vain, nor serve thee for nought; but art a Lord, that hath pleasure in the prosperity of thy servants, and payest us not according to our poor imperfect services, but givest like thyself, infinitely good and most rich in mercy: the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. It is not any thing in thy laws, O gracious Lord, but the sinfulness of our depraved nature, that makes any of them seem grievous to us, which are all holy, and just, and good, tending to promote our present and eternal happiness. Nor is it any thing in thy blessed service, but the indisposedness of our own vile hearts, that makes any part of that tedious to us, which is the work and joy of angels, and our wisdom, honor and interest; yea, what we may make our delight, as well as our duty, to perform. Holy God, we are all as an unclean thing, and all our very righteousnesses are as filthy rags: nor can we ever hope to be justified in thy sight, upon account of any works or worth of our own: for by our own hearts and deeds we are reproved and condemned, and should be left speechless in thy judgment, if thou, O Lord, shouldst call us to account, according to the merits even of our best services. But we desire to take refuge and sanctuary under the shadow of our crucified Saviour; and to be found in him, not having our own righteousness, but that which is by the faith of Jesus Christ, that the shame of our nakedness may be covered, and all our sinful deformities hid

from thine eyes : that thou mayest forgive us mercifully, and receive us graciously, and love us freely in the Son of thy love, in whom thou art well pleased.

Command a blessing, we pray thee, O Lord, upon the word, which this day we have heard, and upon all the means of grace that have been used for the good of our souls. It is not of him that planteth, nor of him that watereth, but of thee, our God, who giveth the increase. O be thou pleased to second the preaching of thy word with the powerful influences of thy grace and holy Spirit ; that it may be the savor of life to our souls, and the power of God to our salvation. O let us so hide thy word in our hearts, that we may not, as we have done, sin against thee, but that it may be as a treasure within us ; to stand us in stead, in every hour of temptation, and in all the times and cases of our need : That we may walk more humbly and closely with our God, and more conscientiously and circumspectly before thee ; and be so obedient to the holy precepts of thy word ; that, finally, we may enjoy the glorious promises, of which it gives us the blessed reviving hopes.

Supply the want of thy public ordinances, we beseech thee, by the immediate teachings of thy good Spirit, to all such as through any unavoidable impediments are kept from them : And continue to us, O gracious Lord, the light of thy gospel, and all the happy opportunities, which we enjoy for our souls' advantage. And preserve us also, by thy grace, from the curse of barrenness, under all thy holy means, and abundant mercies ; for it were better for us we never had them, if we were not the better for them. That they may not, therefore, hereafter rise up in judgment against us, O make them now efficacious to us : and write thy laws in our hearts, and

cause them to accomplish all the purposes of thy grace in our souls, and to shine forth with a convincing splendor in our lives; to make us every way such as thou wouldst have us.

And now we give thanks, as we are infinitely bound, to thee, O Lord God, our heavenly Father, for the mercies of this day; and for thy great mercy and goodness that has hitherto followed us all the days of our lives. O how wonderful is thy patience and long-suffering, that thou shouldst all day long stretch forth thy hands to a rebellious and gainsaying people! And how unwearied thy kindness and love, that we still enjoy so many comforts with our lives, who have taken the course to spoil all with our sins! Yea, that thou shouldst not withhold the greatest mercies from such as cannot pretend to deserve the least at thy hands! Blessed be thy name, O most merciful Father, that thou hast defended us from so many dangers in our lives, which threatened to destroy us; and delivered us out of so many troubles, under which we should have sunk and perished, if thou hadst not been nigh to us, and done great things for us. We bless thee for our health and plenty, peace and liberty; for the use of our reason, limbs and senses, and for the comforts of all thy good creatures; for the kindness of friends, and safety from our enemies; for the benefits and refreshments of society, and the success and prosperity of our affairs here in the world. But above all, we bless thee for the mercies and blessings relating to the world to come; for Jesus Christ, and all spiritual blessings in heavenly things in him, tending to the salvation of our souls: for remembering us in our low estate, and sending eternal redemption to us by the hands of thy dear Son; for the light and direction of thy word; for the teachings and strivings,

the aids and consolations of thy Spirit; for all the means and helps which we have to do us good; for all thy grace wrought in us, and bestowed upon us; and for all the discoveries and hopes of eternal glory which thou hast given to us. O how infinitely indebted are we to the kindness and love of God our Saviour! O that we may ever be sensible and thankful as we ought! And with all that thou hast given us, blessed God, give us hearts filled with thy love, and lifted up in thy praise, and devoted to thy honor and service.

We can but acknowledge the vast debt, that we are never able to pay. We cannot praise thee according to the riches of thy grace, and the multitude of thy mercies; but we desire to bless and praise thee, with all the capacities and abilities wherewith thou hast blessed us. And help us, O Lord our God, to glorify thy name, not only in speaking to thy praise, but so entirely devoting ourselves to thy pleasure, that we may be thine in faithfulness, and in the sincerity of our hearts, even all the days of our lives.

O make us truly penitent and humbled for all which this day we have done amiss, and make us unfeignedly thankful for all the good that we have received; and for all which thou hast, in any manner or measure, enabled us to do aright. The evil is from ourselves alone, and to us belong shame and confusion of face for it: but all the good is of thy free grace, and thy mere mercy: and to thy blessed name O Lord our God, be all the praise and glory rendered, with the most sensible and grateful hearts, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for any intermediate Time of the Lord's Day.*

O LORD, the God of glory! thou fillest heaven and earth with thy presence, fill my heart, I pray thee, with thy grace, and the mindfulness of thy presence with me: that I may demean myself, as under thy awful eyes, and ever manifest in thy holy sight, who art cheerfully and constantly worshipped and attended by all the heavenly host of glorious angels, and immortal spirits above, where thousand thousands minister unto thee, and ten thousand times ten thousand stand before thee. O happy are they who are ever in thy blessed presence, and still taken up in the joyful contemplation and fruition of thee, and the things above; who have an everlasting period put to all their sins, and troubles and temptations here below; and have their souls full of holiness, their hearts filled with joy, and their mouths with the everlasting praises of God. O Lord, look down from heaven, the habitation of thy holiness, and the throne of thy glory, and behold with pity the poor remnant of thy heritage, who are yet upon our warfare and pilgrimage in this present evil world; beset with many and mighty malicious enemies of our souls, and groaning for deliverance from the bondage of corruption, that we may be brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

The good Lord pardon every one of us, that now endeavor to prepare and set ourselves to seek thy face, and to meet and enjoy our God in the ordinances of thy worship: though we be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary, accept us in thy beloved Son, according to what we have, and fill us with thy good Spirit, to make us what we would be.

O give me a devout soul, and a praying heart; that I may not merely go over the words of prayer, or rest in any forms of godliness; but may serve thee with my spirit, and lift up my heart to the Lord, and, as much as is possible, converse above.

It is good for men to draw nigh to God; in whose service consists all our honor and bliss. O let my heart rejoice in seeking the Lord; and with great liveliness, and love, and cheerfulness, let me frequent thy ways, and study thy words, and admire thy works, and praise thy name. I bless thee, my God, that thou hast given me an understanding to know thee, a heart to love thee, and a soul capable of waiting upon thee in the duties of thy holy immediate service here and capable of enjoying thee in thy eternal heavenly glory hereafter. I bless thee for all opportunities and advantages which I have to serve thee, and to work out my salvation; for the ministry of reconciliation committed to thy servants, for all their labors and writings and preachings; and for all other means of grace and helps heaven-ward.

O give me also such a love to thy word, that I may value it above all the wealth of the world, and relish it better than all the pleasures of the flesh; esteeming the words of thy mouth more than my necessary food: And receiving it, not only in the light but in the love of it, that I may be saved. And give me, Lord, a heart to fear thee, and keep thy commandments always, that it may go well with me both now and for ever. O let me so make thy word the rule of my life, that it may also be the ground of my hope: and while it is sounding in my ears, O be thou also teaching my heart to make it efficacious and saving to my soul. And let there be such a transcript of the gospel in my life, that I may not only hear what it says, but be such as it describes. O gracious God!

continue the light and joyful sound of thy gospel amongst us: And help us so rightly to use it, and to make our due benefit of it, that we may find cause to bless and praise thee for it. O that every Sabbath may add still to our stature in Christ Jesus; and that we may so sanctify thy Sabbaths now while we are on the way, that in the end we may attain to the blessed Sabbath of thy everlasting rest: There to live in the sight and love, and in the enjoyment and praises of thee our God, blessed for evermore. *Amen.*

*A Confession of the Sins forbidden, with Prayer for Grace to perform the Duties enjoined in the Commandments: Preparatory to the Sacrament, or at any Time of Humiliation.*

O LORD, the great and glorious God! against whom I have grievously offended: and who, for my sins art justly displeased: I know not where to begin or end with the rehearsal of all my transgressions; which are more than I can remember, and greater than I can express.

Thou art God alone, and there is none beside thee, that hast absolute sovereignty over me, and that can be full and final happiness to me. But, O Lord my God; other lords besides thee have had dominion over me. I have idolized things in myself, and in this present world; and have set them in the stead of God; either disbelieving thy being, or forgetting thy presence, or disliking to retain thee in my thoughts; and living without thee in the world. I have not improved in thy knowledge, answerable to the means of instruction wherewith thou hast blessed me. And that I have no more and better knowledge of God, it is my shame, and owing to my sinful dulness and negligence in that which

does most of all concern me. I have not had all my expectations from thee, nor my whole dependence upon thee, nor my chief hope and delight in thee: but have stuck and trusted to creature comforts and worldly enjoyments: things short of thee, my God, to make me happy. O how have I hardened my heart against the fear of thy glorious Majesty; who can, whenever thou pleasest, kill and cast sinners into hell! Making bold to sin against the clear light which thou hast caused to shine upon me! And how have I shut my heart against the love of my chiefest good; who has still been doing me good, and laying fresh obligations upon me, with thy renewed favor, every day! Loving the creatures and any sensual pleasures more than the God blessed for ever.

I have conceived injurious, unbecoming thoughts of thy infinite greatness and goodness, till I have become vain and wicked in my imaginations; thinking the most high and glorious God to be even such an one as myself: And instead of worshipping thee in spirit and in truth, it has been after my own fancy and humor, in a formal customary manner.

O what light account have I made of thy great name! and what little zeal have I shewed for thy honor and glory! How have I disregarded thy word and works, thy mercies and judgments, thy calls and warnings, and all thy offers and invitations; and either neglected the offices of thy worship, or profaned thy holy things, and abused religious duties, to cover my own offences: drawing nigh to thee with my mouth, when my heart has been far from thee.

Thy day I have not remembered as I ought, to keep it holy: but have used as common, what thou hast set apart for sacred; and borne the holy season as a burden, and made bold with thy hallowed time, to spend it upon my sloth and lusts, and wordly trifles and carnal impertinences.

O how have I failed and sinned in all my relations. As a superior, in pride and vanity; as an inferior, in stubborness and envy: as a parent and child, master and servant, friend and neighbor: not discharging my duty in any capacity as I ought.

How careless have I been of my own and others' souls! how passionate and unmerciful, contentious and revengeful! Bitter in my words, malicious in my heart, tempting some into soul-ruining sins; and not doing what in me lies, to keep others from the wicked undoing of themselves; not exerting my desires and endeavors to do good unto all.

O Lord, I am unclean, unclean! defiled with filthy imaginations rolling in my head, and lustful desires harboring in my heart, and breaking out in corrupt communication, and carnal carriage, and intemperate living after the flesh. Yea, I have been guilty of the spiritual whoredom, in forsaking the blessed bridegroom of my soul, to cleave to lying vanities: and to keep up that friendship with the world, which is enmity with God.

I have been unfaithful in the unrighteous mammon, and not honored thee with my substance; nor done the good which thou hast made me capable of doing, with the world's good; but by idleness and injurious intrenching on the rights of others, or by profuse consuming my portion on my own lusts, I have been a sacrilegious usurper of thy good creatures.

O what vicious liberties have I taken to myself, in speaking evil of my neighbors: Using them in my words, as I would ill resent to be used: slandering and reviling, dissembling or rash judging: and often wronging the truth, to avenge, to excuse, to exalt myself.

O what a nursery of covetous and carnal desires,

has been this corrupt and wicked heart of mine! Cherishing and delighting in evil motions; repining at others' welfare: coveting all to myself, and catering only for the flesh, to fulfil its lusts.

Such sins I have committed against thy holy law: and I have also sinned against thy gracious gospel, O Lord; not acquainting myself with the way of salvation by Jesus Christ: but neglecting so great salvation; and disregarding the only Saviour, whom to know and win, I should have accounted all things else but loss and dung. I have not been awed by thy threatenings, nor taken with thy promises; nor listened to the calls of thy word, nor yielded to the motions of thy Spirit; nor believed the truths nor loved the days, nor plied the means, nor improved the opportunities, which thou hast graciously set before me: but have shut my eyes against the things of my peace; and made light of all my Saviour's doings and sufferings, and various methods for the salvation of my soul: taking pleasure in the enemies of his cross: little concerned for the success of his gospel; nor laying to heart my own or others' sins; nor seriously repenting, nor fervently praying; but doing all these things, as if I did them not.

Such is my heavy charge: this is my heinous guilt: O that I may not only confess it, but be duly humbled for it! And lay my mouth in the dust, if so be that yet there may be hope! And is there hope for such a great and provoking sinner? Lord of love, thou hast helped many poor miserable souls in a low dangerous case: and many, I believe, are now triumphing and praising thee in glory, who much and long rebelled against thee here below. Such are the wonders of thy grace, to get thee glory in seeking and saving that which was lost. And thy hand is not shortened; nor thy mercy abated: but still

thou art able and ready to help and save, as ever thou wast. O put me in the way where all thy goodness may pass before me: and help me to exercise such humiliation and repentance in thy sight, that thou mayest exercise thy pardoning and saving mercy upon my soul; and never lay my sins to my charge, but upon his account who was made sin for us, though he knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Nor do I only beg for pardon of sin, but also for power against it. That thy preventing may dash and break temptations in the first approach; and thy assisting grace enable me to resist in the assault, and to overcome in the issue. That I may never fall a miserable prey to the cruel adversary who walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom to devour. And turn my feet, O Lord, to thy testimonies; and help me, with an enlarged heart, to run the way of thy commands. O give me grace to take and choose thee for my God; and to know, and trust, and fear, and love, and serve, and worship thee as God. Give me a true reverence for thy name, zeal for thy glory; serious devotion and constancy, in all the duties of thy holy religion; conscientious care of the sanctification of thy day, and due veneration and affection for all thy holy things.

Help me also, my God, rightly to discharge all relative duties, that I owe to superiors, equals, inferiors, and all with whom I have my conversation in the world: that I may give no just offence to any, but so carry towards every one, as to credit my holy profession, and win others into the love of it. O make me careful of my own, and of others' souls; peaceable and patient, merciful and kind; desirous of, and what in me lies, endeavoring to promote the good of all: so loving my neighbor as myself. O

make me chaste and continent, pure in heart, sober and modest in speech and carriage; temperate in the use of thy good creatures; given to prayer, and all the exercises of godliness, that tend to mortify the sinful lusts of the flesh. Make me also faithful in the unrighteous mammon, contented with my portion, industrious in my calling, upright in my dealing, honoring thee with my substance; and doing good, and not hurt, with what thou hast given me of the world's good. Help me, O righteous God, still to love and own, to confess and maintain the truth: candidly to interpret the sayings and doings of others; not delighting in their shame, but being as tender of their reputation, as I would desire they should be of mine. And help me, O my Lord, to resist the beginnings and first risings of evil motions in my mind; and to keep my heart with all diligence, from giving any harbor there to covetous and unclean desires. O let me not give my mind to earthly things; nor be carnally minded, which is death; but spiritually minded, which is life and peace. And incline my heart, O good God, to meditate and love, and keep thy holy laws.

O make me resolved for, and in love with, a life of holiness, according to thy blessed will and word. And let me not only think and purpose to live godly in Christ Jesus, but bring my purposes into actions, my actions into habits, and my habits into a holy lasting perseverance; enduring so to the end, that I may be saved. And through the ways of thy holy commands, O Lord, lead me to the joys of thy heavenly kingdom: that having my fruit unto holiness, I may find the end everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer before the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.*

O What am I, poor, unworthy, sinful wretch, that I should go to the table of the Lord, and put myself on, for the portion of his saints! Great God! my guilt, and shame and fear, do pull me back, and make me ready to conclude it presumptuous and vain for me, ever to expect such high honor and favor from thee; after I have so foully misbehaved myself towards thee. I durst not think of making so near approaches to thy holy Majesty, but that thou art pleased to invite and command us so to do. Nor could I ever hope for such heavenly blessings at thy hands, O Lord, but that thou art so infinitely good and kind, even to such as deserve nothing from thee! but to be forsaken and abhorred by thee. Instead of stretching forth a sceptre of mercy, to invite me to thy table; thou mightest with the rod of thy wrath, dash me in pieces as a potter's vessel: and instead of entertaining me with the bread of life, and the cup of blessing, mightest give me the bread and water of affliction; and throw me down, where I should in vain cry out for a drop to cool my tongue.

But seeing thou art pleased to call even sinners that have undone themselves, to come unto thee for help: and hast appointed this sacrament as a means of conveyance, to help them to pardon and grace that stand in need of the same; therefore, seeing I do extremely need thy pardoning mercy, and thy sanctifying grace; I come, Lord, though polluted and unfit to appear before thee: and I dare not but come; as knowing that I shall be undone, keeping away from thee. I come not Lord, because I am

worthy, but because thou art rich in mercy. I come as the poor starved wretch to the fire: I come as the hungry to be fed; and as the sick and maimed, to be recovered and healed: That I may wash in the blood of thy Son, and be cleansed: that I may receive of thy infinite fulness, all that is wanting in my wretched self; that I may so touch my Saviour, as to perceive virtue from him; to heal my sinful sores, and to enable me for thy faithful service.

O that I may come in the humblest manner, with all reverence and godly fear; and with the most earnest longings after Christ Jesus; and the heartiest resolutions to live unto him, that was pleased to die for me! And do thou instruct me, O Lord, and assist me in the examination, the humiliation, and preparation of myself; in order to my safe and comfortable participation of this holy ordinance. Before I compass thy altar, wilt thou purify my heart by deep repentance and faith in the blood of our great Redeemer. O let me receive a broken and bleeding Saviour, with a broken and contrite heart. And make me so willing and obedient that I may eat the good of the ordinance; so conformable to thee, that I may find communion with thee; and may have not only representation, but a participation of Christ crucified. O turn in, my Lord, and be not as a stranger to the soul that is the purchase of thy own blood. Enrich thy ordinance with thy presence; that I may find him whom my soul desires to love, and whose love is better than wine: that Christ may appear and be known to my soul, in this breaking of bread: that I may receive such life from thee, as may enable me to live unto thee: and make me know, that thou abidest in me, by the Spirit which thou hast given me.

Blessed Saviour! weigh not mine, but thy own

merits; for I have not deserved thee, but thou hast redeemed me. I can never be worthy of thee, but give me, I beseech thee, such agreeable dispositions, apprehensions, affections and resolutions, in my coming to thee, that I may eat and drink worthily of what I am to receive from thee: that I may participate of thy sacred body crucified, and thy precious blood shed for us, with such discerning, and reverence, and penitence, and faith, and love, and thankfulness, as I ought to do. And what I am not in myself, O do thou make me, out of thy own infinite fulness; such a meet receiver at thy table, that I may find welcome with thee, to my present consolation and my everlasting salvation.

O thou that hast prepared a table in this wilderness with heavenly provisions for our souls, prepare my soul, dear Lord, for these provisions; and give me spiritual appetite, as well as spiritual sustenance: that as the hart pants after the water brooks, my soul may pant after thee, O God: that with desire I may desire to eat this passover; and so open my mouth, that thou mayest fill my hungry soul with thy good things, and so lift up the everlasting doors of my heart, that the King of glory may come in; that Christ may dwell in my heart by faith, and abide with my Spirit, as long as I am to abide here in the flesh.

O make thy ordinance healing, and the savor of life to my soul. And make it also a sealing ordinance, to clear up to me the pardon of my sins, and the assurance of thy love. And as thou sealest the covenant of grace, O let me seal the covenant of obedience: and in such a devout and acceptable manner come unto thy table, that I may return from it with my conscience quieted, my corruptions subdued, my graces increased, and my soul encouraged,

with an enlarged heart, to run the way of thy commands.

Ah Lord! to whom should I, can I repair but unto thee, my life, my strength, and my Redeemer! O thou that callest unto thee the laboring and heavy-laden sinners, help me so to come to thee, that in thee I may find rest for my soul. Thou that has commanded us to break our bread to the hungry, O break the bread of life to all of us that hunger and thirst after righteousness: and give us, O Lord God, our heavenly Father, evermore give us this bread. And thou that art pleased still to continue to us the liberty and advantage of this ordinance to nourish and revive our souls, O work in our hearts a higher esteem for it, and a greater love to it. And in our preparations before we eat and drink at thy table, in our communicating there, and our conversation after, O teach and help us to carry beseeming the holy heavenly feast; and as becomes the redeemed and obliged of the Lord, and the very living members of Jesus Christ.

Hear me, O Lord my God, and forgive me; bless and direct me, quicken and assist me in the work now lying upon me: and be good to me, and deal graciously with me; that I may discharge all my offices heartily as to the Lord, and with good acceptance in the sight of God, through the beloved of my soul, the only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen, Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Grace to resign and give up ourselves to God.*

O MY great and glorious Maker, and Redeemer, my continual preserver and keeper, my only Lord and owner! thine I am every way, by all

the ties of duty and love; and not at my disposal to do what I will with myself: for thou hast formed me for thyself, and dearly ransomed me, after I had lost myself. Yea, I have been solemnly devoted to thee, and vowed to renounce all tempters of my heart and service, that would rival with my blessed Lord: and obediently to serve thy divine pleasure, and to walk in thy holy ways, all the days of my life. And to be so true and faithful in the covenant of my God, is not only my obligation, but my honor and interest, my highest perfection, and my greatest bliss.

But with confusion and remorse, I must acknowledge, O Lord, how I have sacrilegiously alienated myself from thee, and most foolishly and wickedly forsaken thee, to serve other lords; yea, to be under the power and servitude of my own vain humors and brutish lusts; not concerned so much to please thee, as myself; as if I were so my own, that I had no Lord over me, to whom belongs all the right and title to me. O my God! forgive and mortify this wicked and pernicious selfishness in me: and let me no longer unjustly withhold myself from thee: nor madly expose myself to ruin, by living in the world without thee; nor hang in a tremulous suspence between God and mammon, vainly thinking to hold in with both: but make me so wise and considerate, not only of my duty but of my own felicity; as willingly and cheerfully to surrender and devote myself to the blessed Author of my being: that so I may both answer the end for which I was made, and also attain the happiness whereof I am capable. Seeing all that are far from thee shall perish, as branches cut from the living root that feeds them; and I have no sufficiency in myself, but derive all my good from the union with my God: I am convinced, O

Lord, that I am thine, by thy undoubted right; and that I ought to yield up myself for such, by my own free choice, and voluntary act. It is best for me so to do; and I can never do well in standing off from it. O bring me to it, and make me faithful and hearty in it.

My Lord! break all the ties that detain me from thee: and seize and take me for thy own: yea, keep and continue me in thy fear and love to my life's end. And upon my mind and memory, upon my will and affection, upon my heart and conscience, O write holiness to the Lord: and every way make me willing wholly to be thine. Let thy will ever be mine in all things; and melt down this stubborn will into a ready compliance with thy holy pleasure. O let me love and hate, and joy and dislike, as thou dost. Let my soul and body, and all the faculties and powers of both, be under thy conduct, and employed to thy glory. Let all that I am, and all that I have, whatever is mine, O let it be thine; not in pretence only, but in deed and in truth. And never let me think it hard to renounce all for thee: who art infinitely better than all else that ever can tempt me.

O help me so sincerely to deny myself, that I may own no guide and ruler but my great Lord and Proprietor: that my eyes may be ever towards thee; and my whole dependence upon thee; and that thou mayest be all in all to me and thy word my rule, and to promote thy honor and pleasure, my great aim and endeavor: that in all things thou mayest ever be regarded and preferred, and glorified by me through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Some devout Ejaculations and Elevations of the Soul, before receiving at the Lord's Table.*

I. BLESSED be my God, that again is pleased to call me to the reconciliation-feast: and after all my breaches with him, and all my offences against him, yet to grant me a new indulgence; and to seal my pardon afresh in the precious blood of his dear Son, that was shed to take away the sins of the world.

II. At thy gracious invitation, Lord, I am bold to come, looking for that blessed benefit, which I know myself so unworthy to receive; that thou mightest justly bar up the doors of mercy against me, and withhold thy saving good from me. But thy mercies, blessed God, are not to the deserving and worthy, but to the miserable and needy. O let me find them, as I need them; according to the riches of thy bounty, and according to the greatness of my necessity.

III. I have no might for this great work: but I will go in thy strength, O the Lord my God. Give me, I beseech thee, the dispositions, which thou requirest; and work in me, what thou callest for from me. O let me find thy hand upon me, thy help with me, and thy grace sufficient for me.

IV. O that I may see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary! That I may share in the heavenly entertainment of thy children, and eat and drink in thy presence, that bread of life, and that cup of blessing, which may be the life of my soul, and make glad my heart, even with the joy of thy salvation.

V. O what shall I do at thy house, and thy table, Lord, if thou dost not appear to receive and entertain me? O that thou wouldst, in wonderful condescension, bow the heavens and come down: and make me experience thy presence with me, and that power of thy Spirit upon me; and that loving kindness of thine, which is better than life!

VI. O let not the great Lord and Lover of souls, keep off as a stranger to my soul! But look forth at the windows, and show himself through the lattice, and remember me in saving mercy, where he feeds, where he makes his flock to rest: and let me now taste and see, to the satisfaction of my soul, how good the Lord is.

VII. I desire to shelter under the shadow of my Lord Redeemer; and to be found in Christ Jesus, endued with that righteousness of his which is sufficient both to atone for all my guilt, and also to fill up all my wants; yea, to make me complete and meet for the love of God, and for the felicity of his chosen. O God of all grace! give me, I beseech thee, thy Christ to be my Jesus; and grant me a particular saving interest in that great redemption, which he brings to the poor sinful lost world: that my soul may magnify the Lord, and my spirit may rejoice in God my Saviour.

VIII. O thou that art able to do it, bring me into the bonds of the covenant: and let me voluntarily and cheerfully enter it: not as compelled to it or aggravated at it; but willing and glad with all my heart, to be secured in such blessed hands.

IX. O make me willing in the day of thy power;

and may I this day experience, Lord, the powerful workings of thy blessed Spirit; to open and enlarge my heart, and make me ready and fit, and joyful, to receive him who stands at the door and knocks; even to receive Christ Jesus the Lord into my soul.

X. O how unworthy am I, Lord, that thou shouldst come under my roof: unworthy to eat the crumbs that fall under thy table! but thy infinite merits can cover all my sins and unworthiness; and recommend me to the just and holy Majesty of heaven, even as if I had not sinned. O deal so graciously with me, my Lord, and my God, I beseech thee, and forgive, and heal, and help me; and exercise thy power and pity, and great salvation upon me: and come into my soul, with all the blessings and consolations of thy coming into the world.

XI. O Lord! my soul is polluted and unclean: but thy precious blood can cleanse me from all my sins and defilements; and make me fit to receive thee, to my profit and comfort: O speak thou the word, and I shall be clean and whole: and my soul shall live and for ever bless thy name.

XII. Assist me mercifully, O Lord, in my designs and endeavors to obtain the blessed fruitions, whereof thou hast made me capable. O forgive my unworthiness: cover my deformities; help my infirmities; quicken my dulness; prepare me for thee; draw me unto thee; bring me into the enjoyment of thee; now in part, as far as I can attain: and hereafter in fulness, as much as my heart shall desire, and that for ever.

XIII. O that thy ordinance now may be the

means of my establishment; to derive unto my soul, out of the fulness of Christ Jesus, grace sufficient to make me holy and lively, and able for my duty: faithful in it, and constant to it! And what I have not in myself, Lord, do thou give me; and what I am not of my self, O do thou make me, for thy own mercy's sake. *Amen, Amen.*

### *Thanksgiving and Prayer after the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.*

I DESIRE with all my soul to adore and magnify thy blessed name, O Lord God, my heavenly Father, for all the expressions of thy love and bounty, to me a poor unworthy sinner. Particularly for thy precious favors and the renewed pledges of thy love in Christ Jesus, which I have received from thee this day; that thou hast admitted me, not only into thy house but to thy table; and used me as thy friend and the child of thy family; who deserves to be cast out as an enemy, and to be trampled even as the offscouring of all things. O what manner of love is this, that I should fare so well, and deserve so ill at thy hands! O that it should be so done to wretched sinful men! that the God so greatly offended by us, should not only forgive us, but entertain and feast us with all the good things, which our blessed Saviour has merited and prepared for us! Lord, what is man, that thou art so mindful of him, and the son of man that thou so visitest him! And what am I, one of the vilest and sinfullest of men, that the great Lord, so ill used by me, should deal so exceeding graciously with me! O make me to know the things that are freely given me of God, and how much I do owe unto the Lord, for all thy kindness to my soul, which thou hast redeemed and eternally obliged to thyself. O give me a heart

deeply sensible of thy mercy, and steadfastly purposing to live to thy glory; that I may shew my thankfulness for thy benefits, by my obedience to thy precepts. O keep me mindful of the vows of God upon me: and help me to live, as having my holy Redeemer now dwelling in me.

And as I have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so enable me to walk in him; to walk more worthy of the Lord unto all well-pleasing; to walk in love, as Christ loved us; and to go on in the strength of what I have received from thee, to live unto thee: following after holiness, as being not only brought so nigh to, but intimately conjoined with the holy one of God.

As I have eat and drank the sacramental bread and wine, to the nourishment and refreshment of my frail body; so let the crucified body and effused blood of God my Saviour, nourish and sustain my immortal soul unto life eternal: and revive me with the sense of thy pardon and peace, and love, that is better than wine, and better than life itself.

And O that the sacrifice of Christ Jesus, that sacrifice of himself, which he offered upon the cross, and which I have this day been commemorating at thy table, may atone for all the failings and miscarriages in my preparations and performances! That upon the account of that grand propitiation for the sins of the whole world, I may be spared and accepted with thee my God, here to thy blessed love, and hereafter to thy heavenly glory: through him that gave himself for us, and has also given himself to us; even the Son of thy love, and the great Lover of our souls: for whom, and to whom, with thy eternal Self and holy Spirit, be all thanks and praise, and honor, and glory, ascribed of me, and of all thy church, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

*Some devout Ejaculations and Elevations of the Soul, after receiving at the Lord's Table.*

I. GLORY be to thee, O Lord our God, that in our extreme need of a Redeemer, thou hast made such gracious provision for our souls; and sent thy Son to die for our sins, and to save us who had destroyed ourselves. And that he who offered himself upon the cross for us, is pleased to offer himself at his table unto us: Where I have been tasting the fruits of his love, and receiving my share among the redeemed of the Lord.

II. I bless thee, my God, for the mercies of a Saviour; without which all mercies else would be unavailable, and do me no good. I bless thee, that thou hast not withheld thy Son, thy only Son, from us, but given him to be the propitiation for our sins, and to be the life and food of our souls.

III. I sat down under his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. I have been entertained at the table of the Lord: and there his banner over me was love. 'Twas love that gave me the Saviour whom I have been receiving; and the opportunity now to come, and rest, and feast my soul upon him.

IV. Return to thy rest, O my soul, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with thee.—Thy life is given thee at his hands: who forgiveth all thy sins, and healeth all thy diseases: and not only redeems thee from destruction, but crowns thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; and satisfies thy mouth with good things, and those the best of all things, even his pardon and peace, his Son and his Spirit; the riches of his grace, and the pledges of his glory.

V. Blessed be my God, for that bread which came down from heaven, to give life unto the world. And blessed be thy name, O gracious Lord, for my share in this highest expression of thy wonderful love and bounty.

VI. Eternal thanks and praise be unto thee, O blessed God my Saviour, for all thy glorious achievements, in laying the sure foundation for our good hope, and everlasting consolation.

VII. Thou hast loved us, and redeemed us, and washed us from our sins in thy own blood. And O how infinitely indebted am I to thy mercy, that thou callest me to this sweet heavenly entertainment; which cost thee so dear, to purchase and provide for us!

VIII. O make me more sensible of thy love, and more thankful for all its blessed effects; and let me now find the happy fruits of strength and refreshment to my soul; even strength against all the temptations, that would pluck me from thee, and engage me in rebellion against thee; and such refreshments as may take my heart off from all the pleasures of sin; and make it my meat and drink to do the will of my heavenly Father.

IX. After I have tasted the pleasures of my Father's house, O let me not go to feed upon husks. And let nothing wear off or wear out the savor that I have had of things heavenly: nor let a world part between me and the blessed Saviour of the world.

X. Let me not turn my back upon the Lord of love, that has been so good and kind to my soul.

O let me not break with my heavenly Sovereign, to whom now again I have vowed allegiance.

XI. Whither shall I go from thee, O blessed Jesus, who hast the words and the gift of eternal life? All is in thy hands; and thou art the best of all Lords, who dost not rule us, but to bless us: and canst have no ends upon us in ordering of us, but only to keep off ruin from us, and to secure the highest happiness to us.

XII. I will admire, and love, and praise my Lord: I will believe and trust in his tried mercy: I will rejoice and glory in his great salvation. And who shall pluck me out of his hands? What shall separate me out of his love? My beloved is mine, and I am his. Thine I am, O Lord, and thine I will be, while I have my being.

XIII. Yet Lord of all power and love! I beseech thee keep thy servant from falling: and preserve me in every time and case of danger. O do not suffer me to undo myself; but pity my frailty, and relieve my infirmity: and in thy hands let me be safe and never perish, but attain to everlasting life: through Jesus Christ my great Redeemer and only Saviour. *Amen, Amen.*

## *Prayer and Humiliation for a Public Fast-Day.*

O LORD God, glorious in holiness, and of purer eyes than to behold any iniquity without abhorrence of it, and indignation against it! How shall man, sinful man, that drinks in iniquity like water, appear before thee? And how shall we, vile and frail, polluted and depraved as we are, shew ourselves in the presence of such a great and wise, just

and holy God, as thou art! When we look upon thy perfect law, and see what we should be, what manner of person, in all holy conversation and godliness; and when we reflect on our own hearts and lives, and find what we are; how wanting in our duty, and how contrary to that holy rule, which thou dost prescribe to us by which to keep our hearts and to order our conversation: We cannot come into thy presence, O Lord, without confusion of face, and anguish of soul, and remorse of conscience, to think how foolishly and wickedly we have done; and how abject and wretched we have made ourselves; even viler than the dust of the earth, or any thing that moves upon it.

Besides that we brought with us a corrupt name into the world, full of strangeness to thee, our God, and full of enmity against thy holy, good and righteous laws; we have mispent the most of our time here in the neglect of thy work, and in disobedience against thy word; daily multiplying our offences against thee, as thou hast been pleased daily to multiply thy blessings and favors upon us. O the precious time that we have lost, the means that we have neglected, the mercies that we have abused, the calls and warnings, offers and invitations, that we have disregarded! How bold have we made with thy glorious Majesty, and with thy holy laws! What little awful regard have we had to thee! What little conscientious fear of offending thee!

O the crying sins and abominations, the prevailing wickedness, and the bold open impieties, [*the swearing and drunkenness, the pride and uncleanness, the cruel enmity, and all manner of injustice, the corrupt communication, and ungodly conversation*] whereby God is so greatly dishonored and provoked every day, almost every

where! And O how large a share have we had in adding to the public guilt! Sinning as we have done, in all estates and affairs, in all relations and circumstances of our lives! And not only through weakness and surprize, and the violence of temptations: but many times knowingly, wilfully and presumptuously; with a high hand, and stiff neck, against thee, our glorious Maker, and Judge eternal: and O how great a weight have we added to all our other sins, by the hardness of our hearts and our impenitent continuance in our sins! Committing great sins with little remorse, little penitent concernment for all the evils whereof we have been guilty! Yea, Lord, how unsuitable still are our hearts and our lives for those holy rules, which thy word gives us in charge to follow! So much is there still amiss with, and wanting in us, that it is the great abounding mercy of our Lord, that thou dost yet lengthen out our lives, and thy patience with us; and still leave us any of these opportunities, to humble ourselves before thee, and to cry for mercy to thee, in that day of grace, which through the forbearance of our God is yet over us.

We have not glorified thee, O Lord, in bearing fruits of holiness answerable to thy revealed will, and to thy obliging love: But we desire to give glory to God, in confessing our sins, and humbling our souls, and acknowledging our desert of all thy judgments: and admiring and magnifying the riches of that grace and mercy, which has spared us so long a time, and shewed us such marvellous kindness still, notwithstanding all the high provocations of our sins. Lord, we have heard, and blessed be thy name, we have found, that the King of heaven is a merciful King. That with thee, our God, there is mercy, that thou mayest be feared; that our sins,

though great and manifold, may be pardoned; and that our souls though ruinous, and much endangered, by reason of our sins, may be recovered and healed, and eternally saved: O help us so to accuse, and judge, and condemn ourselves, that we may not be judged of the Lord, to be condemned with the world; and so to lay our sins to heart, that thou mayest never lay them to our charge, but upon the account of thy Son our Saviour; whom thou hast given to be the propitiation for our sins; and in whom thou art a God gracious and merciful to poor sinners; that deserve nothing at all from thee, but to be forsaken and abhorred by thee. For his sake, O good God! give us repentance and pardon for all that is past, wherein we have offended thee; whether they be our sins of omission or commission; sins of weakness or wilfulness: failings or presumptions; the sins of ignorance, or such as we have committed against light and knowledge; O gracious Lord, humble us duly under the sense of them, and absolve us thoroughly from the guilt of them. O set our sins in order before us, and make us to know our transgressions, and the evil of our own hearts; and every one of us so to search and try our ways, that we may turn to the Lord, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance; and not only loathe ourselves in our own sight, for the evils whereof we have been guilty: but also loathe, as much as ever we have loved, the things which displease thy holy will, and dishonor thy blessed name. O that we may forsake our sins, not only in the outward commission, but in the inward affection; not reserving to ourselves any sin or lust to be spared, nor any way of wickedness, wherein we would be allowed: but keeping at that distance which thy holy word teaches us to keep, from every evil and accursed thing, that is

abomination in thy sight, and destructive to our souls; and cleansing ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, endeavoring to perfect holiness in the fear of God.

We have been accessary to the accumulated heinous guilt that endangers us all, and calls for judgments on the land. O that we may be as forward to contribute our help, by the humiliation of our souls, and the reformation of our lives to save our nation; and to turn away the anger gone out against us, that we perish not. Save us, O Lord, from our sins, which are the enemies of our own house; more mischievous to us than any other evils or enemies abroad. O pour out a spirit of serious repentance and reformation upon the whole nation; to heal the distempers of our souls, to curb the disorders of our lives, and to recover the decayed power of godliness in the land: and so prepare and dispose us not only for thy temporal mercies, but for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. Help us so to turn from the evil of our ways, that thou mayest turn from the fierceness of thy wrath, and cause thy anger towards us to cease. O that we may fear the rod, and who has appointed it! And so prepare to meet thee, our God, in the way of thy judgments, that the God of peace may think thoughts of peace to us, and not of evil; and to give us an expected end, and the desired issue, of all our fears and dangers.

Thou canst shew us great and mighty things, which we know not, and exceed all our expectations, as well as our deservings, by thy bountiful favors: and though thou mightest make us know the worth of slighted mercies, by their want; and deprive us of all the good, which we have so little improved, and so greatly abused: yet O how many promises

of thy word, and what frequent experience, which we have had of thy mercy, in time of our need, do encourage us still with hope to look unto thee, our God, and to wait for the salvation of the Lord! O how long, in all our provocations, hast thou spared us! And how often, in our distresses, sent wonderful redemption to us! And to thee, who hast helped and delivered, in time past, do we look still for help and deliverance. O our God, be thou pleased to take the motive now from thy own mercy, that has so far been pleased to interest thy glory in our safety; and go on to help and deliver us, for the glory of that mercy which first made us thy people, and still has owned us for thy peculiar care. O do not abhor us, nor forsake us for thy name's sake: but be jealous for thy land, and pity thy people. Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine, and we shall be saved.

Either in mercy turn away the evils from us; or prepare us for them, and support us under them, and bring us happily out of them: that we may not sink and perish in them, but find spiritual good, by temporal evils; and find the light momentary afflictions to work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; and all things concurring to promote our grace and our peace with God, through Jesus Christ. And though thou shouldst feed us with bread of adversity, and water of affliction, yet let not our teachers be removed into corners; nor bring us under a famine of the word of the Lord; nor give us over to the formality of a lifeless profession; under all the means of grace, to send leanness into our soul. Though thou permit the floods and storms to arise and increase; yet fortify us so by thy grace, that we may not be moved by any of these afflictions; so as to turn the blessed advantage of

suffering for thee into an occasion of falling from thee.

Seeing the truth itself will not make us free if we are not true to it; and the purest religion cannot be our defence; when we continue still so bad, as to shroud the worst conversation, under the best profession, O help us, Lord, to rid our hands and our hearts of all the accursed things, that provoke thy wrath and indignation against us. And let us wisely consider of thy doings, and know the time of our visitation, and hearken to the calls, and take the warnings, and improve the means and mercies vouchsafed to us, while we have them; and follow the conduct of thy good providence, and comply with all thy gracious methods used, to reclaim us from our sins, and to reform our lives, and save our souls: that all may not be in vain to us, but at last effect the purposes of thy saving mercy upon us: to deliver us from the evils to come, and to set us safe into the hands of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour, *Amen.*

## *Confession and Prayer for the Evening of a Public Fast-Day.*

O LORD most high and holy, the God of all power and glory, against whom we have greatly sinned, and who by our sins hast been highly provoked; we are under a necessity still to come and appear before thee; and we dare not keep away from thee. But O with what confidence can we look up to the Majesty of heaven, whom we have so ill used, and so much offended!

Well may we be abashed and struck down, to bethink ourselves of all the evil that we have done, and all the sins of heart and life which still we are in;

when we remember, O Lord, and consider thy perfect understanding of every particular, thy holiness to hate, thy justice to requite, and thy power to punish every wicked thing:

We fall down, and humble ourselves here at thy feet, blessed glorious God, confessing the grievous guilt of all our sins, and our due desert of thy heavy judgments. For we cannot but own ourselves to be some of those degenerate children whom thou hast nourished and brought up, that have rebelled against thee. Yea, have made the bolder to offend thee, the better thou hast dealt by us.

Holy Father! we are filled with confusion, to think what little proportion our lives do bear to our names; how unsuitable to our profession has been our conversation; and how inconsistent we have been with ourselves: when we are called the children of God, the members of his Christ, and the heirs of his glory; and call the gospel our rule, and profess to believe all the great eternal things which it contains; and yet carry, as if we did not know or mind the privileges that we have, nor the relation and obligations in which we stand.

Yea, this may not only fill our faces with shame, but our hearts with dread: lest our very profession of thy holy religion should rise up in the judgment against us, to aggravate our condemnation upon us; because we would so sin against our own belief and knowledge, to pull down the more heavy intolerable doom upon our own heads.

We have been vain and carnal, proud and unthankful in our health and prosperous state; and sullen and forward, murmuring and desponding in our low afflicted condition. The kindness and the mercy that should have allured us unto thee, and encouraged us the more faithfully and cheerfully to

serve thee, has made us but forgetful of thee, and to wax wanton against thee. And the correction and trouble that should have driven us out of our sins, and hastened us to flee for the life of our souls, has but put us out of patience, and filled us with prejudice against thy righteous hand, and with hard and unworthy thoughts of our God. And so, we have made shift still to keep the hold of our sins, notwithstanding all thy various methods to break us of them.

Yea, to thee, O Lord, who searchest the hearts, and triest the reins, we must acknowledge and bewail the sins of our hearts and minds: our vain thoughts, and proud imaginations, our lustful and covetous desires, our envious and malicious projects: for these corrupt the fountain, and defile the habitation of thy blessed Spirit. These are the seeds and roots of all the other evils in our lives; and render us even as criminal in thy sight, as if we had outwardly acted what we have so inwardly devised. Such vile inclinations and profaneness to evil, approving of it and delighting in it, and consenting to it, carries so much guilt and malignity along with it, that even for this, thou mightest justly abhor us and condemn us, in that day when God shall judge the secrets of men, by Jesus Christ.

Thus we must criminate and arraign ourselves; confessing that iniquities prevail against us, temptations are still pressing upon us; and our sins, O how often do they get the ascendant over us! Still we are offending our holy Lord; and still we are carrying in us the corrupt nature, the carnal mind, the opposition to thy righteous law, and an enmity against God, which threatens us with thy wrath and ruin.

We read of such as cannot cease from sin; and

such, O Lord, thou knowest us in a great measure to be; that have brought ourselves under the sad necessity of sinning against thee; and so entangled our guilty souls in the tempter's snare, as to be taken captive by him, even at his will.

We call to mind, with shame and remorse, how we have provoked the eyes of thy jealousy, and affronted thy glorious Majesty; how frequently we have so sinned, and how heinously offended.

But after all this, so much amiss that we have done, and when we cannot but thus acknowledge what great and provoking sinners we have been, yet O what sorry works have we made of our repentance for our sins; O how little have we done at it, but trifle with it! Even when we talk of humiliation, and pretend to it, and argue for it, O Lord thou knowest how seldom we have engaged in it, and how superficially we have gone over it, in the proper seasons for it: how hard and unrelenting have been our hearts! and how loath and backward to the most needful work!

O good God! wilt thou humble us, that we have been no more humbled; and lay not to our charge the sins of those services which we have so ill performed. And seeing unrepented sins are the cause of thy dreadful judgments, O that the dread of thy judgments may drive us out of all such sins! And when the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against them, O let us not dare to continue in them. When the axe is laid to the root of the tree, and thy hand is lifted up, as ready to do execution upon us, O that we may be so warned and reclaimed, and bring forth such fruits meet for repentance, that we may not be hewn down and cast into the fire, nor die or perish in our sins! but may find a way of escape, and mercy from the Lord, and grace to help in all times of our need.

And the Lord in mercy pity our frailties and infirmities, and forgive us all our sinful neglects and iniquities. And for what is still wanting in us, O be thou graciously pleased to accept the full and perfect merits and righteousness of thy dear Son, our most holy Saviour: and let his precious blood be heard speaking for us; where we have nothing to say for ourselves; and where we are so unworthy to be heard on our own account.

Be merciful, O God, to this sinful nation, that has so long enjoyed, and so much abused thy rich and sundry blessings, and still goes on to provoke thee daily. O forgive the many crying sins, for which thou mightest justly abhor us, and reject us, and lay us desolate, and so forsake us utterly, as to be favorable to us no more. Yet grant us thy grace we beseech thee, so to repent and amend, that we may be spared and saved from all the judgments which we have so much deserved.

O that thy warnings and threatenings, and chastenings, may not leave us still an unrelenting incorrigible people, nor pass over us, without working an humble submission and unfeigned repentance upon us! O that we may find the blessed reconcilation with our God, in humbling ourselves before thee, returning unto thee, and bringing forth such fruits of new and better obedience, as, in the Lord our righteousness, shall be favorably accepted by thee: That we may not sink under our fears, nor be ruined by our sins, but plucked as a brand out of the fire: to survive our dread and danger, and to see the good of thy chosen, and rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, and glory with thy inheritance.

And for all the mercy which in judgment thou hast still remembered towards us; and for all thy wonderful patience with us, and long-suffering of us; and that continued matter and occasion of

thankfulness, which we have yet before us; that we are not all consumed, nor only spared, but many ways still blest and favored; not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to thy name alone, be all the praise and glory rendered with humble and grateful hearts, by us, and by all thine every where, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

### *An Addition in Time of War.*

O LORD, the great and dreadful God! against thee we have so greatly sinned and carried us such enemies to thy glory; that thou mayest justly use our enemies, as thy scourge to correct us, and to make us feel some of the smart of our sins: for which it is meet that we should patiently bear thy indignation, even under such thy dealings. But however thou shalt be pleased to express thy anger against us, O let us not fall into their hands whose very mercies are cruel. Arise, O God, let not man prevail, nor those that hate us swallow us up: but scatter them by thy power, and bring them down, O Lord, our shield. Thou that makest the wrath of man to praise thee, O work thy glory even out of that which looks so contrary: yea, restrain the remainder of their wrath; and put a stop to the effusion of blood, that wars may cease, and our land have rest, and thy people be blest with peace. Our eyes are upon thee, our great Saviour, and mighty Deliverer, to give us help from trouble, because vain else is all the help of man. In times of danger, O be thou our shield and buckler: and when our sins lay us open to the malice of enemies, gracious God, be thou our hiding-place, to preserve us from the feared evils and deserved judgments. O for thy truth's sake, for thy Church's sake, for thy beloved Son, our blessed Saviour's sake, spare us, good

Lord, and give us not up a reproach to the enemies of our holy religion; nor let them ever have cause to rejoice in our ruin.

O go forth with our armies, thou Almighty Lord of hosts, and bless and prosper all, both our land and naval forces. And that we may not be in rebellion against heaven, while others are warring against us, O save us from our provoking sins, and direct our ways to please the Lord; and help us so to make our peace with our God, that thou mayest make even our enemies to be at peace with us. O purge the camp of every careful thing, which enfeebles their strength, and defeats their attempts, that they cannot stand before their enemies. And turn them from all the provocations which weaken our hopes by receiving good by their hands. Cover thou their heads in the day of battle; and preserve them in all the times and cases of danger. O let them be as the sun when he goeth forth in his strength; and return with safety, honor, victory, and all good and happy success. O hear the prayers and cries of thy servants, which stand in the gap, interceding in the anguish of their souls for these poor sinful nations, which have so long abused the rich vouchsafements of thy mercy, that we may be spared and saved, and by the kind hand of Omnipotent mercy, plucked as a brand out of the fire, to survive our sins and our fears, and to see the good of thy chosen, and to rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, and glory with thy inheritance; for all the riches of thy grace and goodness to us in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *In Time of Infection.*

O LORD God, the Giver of our health, which is the blessing that sweetens all the other

blessings of our lives: it is only of thy mercy that we have so much health continued, after the disorderly manner in which we have lived. And O how just were it with thee, utterly to take away that health from us which we have so greatly abused to a forgetfulness of thee, and wantonness against thee! how justly mightest thou smite us with the most sharp and noisome diseases, which our nature most abhorreth: to hurry us out of the land of the living, and put a sorrowful end to our wretched days! Our flesh trembles for fear of thee, and we are afraid of thy judgments, lest thou shouldst strike into us the arrows of the Almighty, for the poison thereof to drink up our spirits: lest thou shouldst give unto Death a command to come in at our doors and windows, and make havoc among us, and sweep us away with the besom of destruction. But O thou Hope of Israel, the Saviour thereof in time of trouble; regard not our ill deserts; but remember thy own tender mercies, and gracious promises; and take pity on us, and turn away this plague from us. Put a stop to the raging infection, and say to the destroying angel, it is enough. That we may not be so afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flies by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noon-day: but with ease in our minds, and gladness in our hearts, may serve thee faithfully and cheerfully all our days: and devote our spared lives, which we have begged at thy hands, and our health and every mercy, to be laid out and used to thy honor and glory; through the strength and the righteousness of thy dear Son, our most compassionate and prevailing Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*In Time of Famine.*

O LORD most High, the Creator of every comfort! thou hast long dealt out thy comfortable blessings with a plentiful hand to us; and we have freely enjoyed all the abundance of thy good things heaped upon us. But when thou hast fed us to the full, how have we kicked against our blessed Creator, and most bountiful Provider: and consumed the provisions for our bodies, to feed the lusts that war against our souls; and to strengthen and embolden us in our rebellion against the Majesty of heaven! most righteous therefore, we confess, would be thy judgments, holy God, if thou shouldst stretch out upon us the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness, and break the staff of our bread; and curse us in all our store, and in all the endeavors of our hands, to help ourselves.

But, O thou blessed Father of mercies! in mercy avert from us the hunger, and thirst, and nakedness, and want of all things, which is the due desert of our sins, and of our wicked abuses of thy creature-comforts; that the husbandman may not be ashamed, sowing much and gathering little: and that the land may not mourn, and all the inhabitants, with the beasts of the field, and the fowls of heaven. Humble us, O Lord, for all our sins; and turn us from that wickedness which turns our land into barrenness: and then again be pleased to command a blessing upon the blasted comforts, and abundantly bless our provision, and satisfy our poor with bread; and give us fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness; that we may see thy hand, and sing and praise thy power, and admire and adore thy mercy and bounty: and in the strength and re-

freshment of our comforts restored, joyfully devote ourselves to thy holy service, all the days of our lives. *Amen.*

*Devout Application to the Lord in Time of great Thunder, or some terrible Tempest.*

O LORD God, most High and Almighty! who lookest upon the earth, and it trembles; and touchest the mountains and they smoke. How wonderful art thou and terrible in all thy works and doings! to make us fear and tremble before thee; who hast all the creatures at thy will, to employ them when thou wilt, as the executioners of thy wrath; and even the devouring fire, and stormy winds, so outrageous in themselves, yet do fulfil thy word. In these astonishing flames, the roaring noises, and dreadful commotions, thou shewest the power of thy hand, which no creature is able to resist. When the God of glory thunders and causes his voice, in an amazing manner, to be heard from heaven, thou makest us to know the terrors of the Lord, and how fearful a thing it is to fall into the hands of the living God. The dangers that startle and come so nigh us thou mighest make them the messengers of thy heavy judgments upon us. And we must own it, Lord, to be only of thy mercies that we are not consumed, because thy compassions fail not. O let these thy compassions now be extended to us, and shewed upon us. And in tender mercy cause the threatening destruction to pass over us.

Great God! there is no abiding of thy wrath! though we deserve it, we are not able to stand before it: but fall down, and humble and submit ourselves to thy omnipotent glorious Majesty; beseeching thee to spare us, and to save us from the mischief

and ruin which thou mightest justly commission and empower to destroy us. And from the peril and hurt of lightning and tempest, and sweeping judgments and sudden death, good Lord deliver us.

O despise not the prayers of thy poor creatures, crying to thee in our distress and extremity: But now and evermore vouchsafe to hear, O Christ: graciously hear us, O Christ: graciously hear us, O Lord Christ, and let us find mercy from thee now, and in that great day of the Lord, wherein the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; and the earth, with all its works, be burnt up. O if these sights and noises, and shakings be so terrible to us now! how unspeakably astonishing will it be, when the whole mighty frame of nature shall crack and sink, and tumble down! O Lord of all mercy save us now from our sins, that would then utterly consume us with terrors. For they are our sins that make us afraid: and fearfulness surprises us, because we have been false in thy covenant, and rebellious against thy word, and provoked the Lord our God to be angry with us. O forgive us all the guilt and transgression which do fill us with fearful expectation of thy wrath and fiery indignation. And let the all-sufficient merits of our Lord and Redeemer's bloody passion, that passion which made the earth to quake, and the rocks to rend, atone for every wickedness, whereby we have offended the holy Majesty of heaven.

And O that we may not only be stunned and struck down for the present; when thou dost so dreadfully discover thyself to us, and shake thy rod over us; but of thy mercy, O Lord, wake us out of all carnal security and hardness of heart, and forgetfulness of our God, who is a consuming fire. As the thunder-storm, though frightful, use to be

fruitful; so may the dread of thy judgments produce some good fruits of thy Spirit in us. Blessed God, let thy terrors soften our hearts, and leave such deep and lasting impressions on our minds, that we may never disregard the works of the Lord, nor the operation of his hands; but with all awfulness revere and adore the Supreme Eternal Ruler of all the world; and in thy holy fear keep back from every evil provoking thing; and carry ourselves towards the Lord our God, in a humble, godly, circumspect manner, as long as we have a day to live; even from this time forth for evermore. *Amen.*

## *In Time of any sore and grievous Calamity.*

O MOST high and dreadful God, the supreme Commander of the whole world! holy and reverend is thy name; just and terrible are thy judgments: Yet O how unsearchable! and thy ways past our finding out! thy path is in the great deep; and thy footsteps are not known. Clouds and darkness are round about thee, yet righteousness and judgment still are the habitation of thy throne; and thou canst never do injury to any; but art righteous in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works. Who would not stand in everlasting awe of thy heavenly glorious Majesty, O Lord, in whose hands we all of us are, to be used as thou wilt! who canst touch and consume us by thy own immediate stroke, or arm any of thy creatures in heaven or in earth against us: or make the vilest of them the executioners of thy just indignation; or turn the very things wherein we have offended, into the instruments of our punishment; yea, and plague us even in our comforts; making the choicest blessings of our lives become the saddest of our crosses, and the keenest of our

torments; either to take away life from us, or make it less desirable than death to us.

We fall down and kneel before the Lord our Maker, in humble submission to thy correction, acknowledging the heavy desert of our sins, and the perfect justice of thy judgments. Humble us, O good Lord, under thy hand; and forgive us the heinous guilt that provokes thee so to stretch it out against us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us, and turn us from our sins, and deliver us from evil and turn away thy wrath, and all such plagues from us. O let thy boundless compassion cover the multitude of our transgressions! and remember thy poor miserable creatures in mercy; even such mercy as may relieve and help us in our need and distress; and save and free us from our fears and dangers, and from our griefs and pressures; that we may comfortably spend our days, and glorify thy holy name for evermore. *Amen.*

## *Under any great Difficulties and arduous Affairs.*

O LORD, thou art a God of knowledge, whose understanding is infinite; and thou art never at a loss to effect what we would have: though the Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are vanity: and our wisdom is so often at a stand, that we know not what to do for ourselves; and at this time, our affairs are so entangled, and such a labyrinth now involves us, that we are perplexed in our counsels, and even the heads of the wise are puzzled, in contriving how to extricate and help us out. There are many devices in a man's heart, but the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand. Yea, man's goings are of the Lord; how can man then understand his own

way? His heart may advise his way, but the Lord directs his steps. If we lean not to our own understandings, but in all our ways acknowledge thee, O Lord; thou hast promised to direct our paths: and when we commit our way to thee, and trust in thee, we have thy word that thou wilt bring it to pass. But thou hast pronounced woe to them that take counsel, but not of thee: that cover with a covering, but not of thy Spirit, and have not asked at thy mouth.

Our eyes therefore are upon our God; and to thee we seek now for wisdom from above: that we may learn to know the right, and to choose the best. For without thee, O Lord, our wisdom is folly, and our debates are madness. O be thou graciously present in our councils, and teach thou our senators wisdom, that they may find out the true expedients, to heal our breaches, and redress our grievances; and to keep us safe, and do us good, and make us holy and happy. O may we all be taught of God which way to take, and how to determine and act, consonant and agreeable to thy blessed will, and for our own peace and welfare, both here and for ever. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Temporal Blessings.*

O LORD our God, thou knowest that while we are in this life, we stand in need of its supplies: and hath both promised to such as seek thy kingdom, and the righteousness thereof, the addition of all other necessaries; and also hast commanded us to ask of thee our daily bread, and to cast our care upon thee for all that is fitting for us, I pray therefore to thee, my heavenly Father, for such a child's portion as thy wisdom sees to be convenient,

and agreeable to my condition. O give me such health and wealth, and so much of the world's good, as shall be for my good. And while I have a life to be nourished, let me not want the supports and comforts of it. Give me skill and ability to provide for myself: and still add thy blessing to my endeavors. Where I cannot supply all my own necessities, O do thou raise up friends and means to help me, that I may never be destitute of what is sufficient to sustain me: and be it ever so poor and mean, yet let me acquiesce in the distributions of thy good providence; and having food and raiment, be therewith content. In prosperity, keep me from forgetting thee: and in adversity, keep me from concluding myself to be forgotten of thee: O keep me from all unnecessary cares, and unprofitable dejections; and teach me how to want, as well as how to abound. Add to me, O my Father, what thou knowest me further to need; and bless to me what already I have. That the bodily comforts may not be to my soul occasions of falling, but encouragements to my duty, and engagements on my heart, to abound in thy love and praise, and in the work of the Lord. And in the want of all other supplies and succors, be thou, O God, my all in all, in life and death, and evermore. *Amen.*

## *For Rain.*

WE confess, O Lord, that we have so greatly abused the comforts of thy good creatures, that thou mightest justly withdraw them from us, and make the heavens over us as brass, and the rain of our land dust; and the land itself to mourn, and all that grows upon it to wither. But O thou Father of mercies, who in judgment rememberest mer-

cy, consult not now our merits, but thy own mercies, how to use us. Thou that hast the bottles and treasures of heaven at thy command, be pleased now to open the windows of heaven, and cause the rain to come down in its season; making grass to grow for the cattle, and herbs and fruits of the earth for the service of men. And however thou art pleased to deal with us, O suppress all our repinings at any of thy dealings: and let them all amend and better us: and make us a people prepared to receive the mercies which we want, and wait and beg for, at thy gracious hands, upon the account of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *For Fair Weather.*

LORD, if thou shouldst turn a fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein; yet righteous wert thou, and just would be thy judgments: and we must not open our mouths to reply against God; but bear the indignation of the Lord which our sins have so much deserved; when our iniquities have turned away the blessings, and withholden the good things from us. But, O Father of mercies, spare us, and forgive us, for thy own mercy's sake: and put a stop to the calamity that threatens destruction to the works of thy hands; that the rain which is thy blessing may not be turned into a curse; nor descend from heaven to corrupt and spoil the fruits of the earth. O cause the overflowing showers to cease, which damp the joy of the harvest, and endanger the blasting of our blessings. And as thou hast given us plenty, and caused our land to yield its increase, so give us, we pray thee, a seasonable time to gather in the fruits which thy bounty has provided for us; that in the use of them we may joyfully and cheerfully

serve thee; and not consume them upon our lusts, but live to thy glory, as we do upon thy bounty. And when thy judgments are in the land, O that we, who inhabit it, may learn righteousness! nor let our concernments be so great for our bodies as for our souls: that however we fare here, it may go well with us for ever. O let us not labor so for the meat that perisheth as for that which endures to everlasting life: which everlasting provision for our unchangeable condition, above all we beg at thy hands, O Lord God our heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ our only Saviour. *Amen.*

## *Prayer and Praise for a Public Thanksgiving-Day.*

BLESSED Lord, the only living and true God, who art of thyself, and givest being and preservation to us, and to all things else that are in the world! we live by thee; our whole dependence is upon thee, for all the good that ever we have or hope for. And above all thy mercies, have we cause to admire and bless, and praise thee our God, for those mercies, which in so large a measure, and especial manner, thou hast been pleased still to vouchsafe unto us, who are the work of thy hands, and the purchase of the blood of thy Son: whom thou hast made and redeemed to shew forth thy praise, and to glorify thy name. And we desire to pay unto thee that tribute of homage, and service, and prayer, and praise, which thou hast made us capable of, and so many ways obliged us to: we desire to perform the same in such a manner, that thou mayest mercifully accept us, at the hands of Jesus Christ.

Worthy art thou, O Lord our God, to receive all honor and glory, all thanks and praise, and love and

obedience; as in the courts of heaven, so in all the assemblies of thy servants here upon earth: for thou art great and dost wondrous things; thou art God alone; and thy goodness is equal to thy greatness. Thy mercy is over all thy works, and endureth for ever. Thou, Lord, hast been favorable to thy land, and dealt exceeding graciously with us: for which we desire to bless thy name, and to give thee all the glory. For it is of the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because thy compassions fail not: and that we are here alive to praise thee, and in any condition to keep a thanksgiving-day. That we are not now nothing, or worse than nothing, we must acknowledge it to be of thy free grace, O Lord, and thy mere mercy. That all the evils which have threatened us, have not befallen us; and that those evils which have come upon us, have not utterly destroyed and undone us: it is because thou Lord, art gracious and merciful, and patient and kind, and still doing good to poor sinful men, who deserve nothing but evil at thy hands.

O how much have we to say of the goodness of the Lord by our own experience, and thy help at hand still in all the times and cases of our need! how sweet and wonderful is it to recount all the instances of thy patience with us, and thy bounty to us! how from time to time thou hast signalized us with thy mercy, and made us remarkable for thy blessings and favors, most kind and precious, of many sorts! thou hast cast our lot in a land of light, where we live under the influences of thy gospel; and thereby are called to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And for all the happy advantages and good things of this life, which thou hast given us plenteously to enjoy, thou hast made us the envy of our neighbors, and the particular objects of thy kind-

ness. Though many times we have provoked thee to stretch forth thy hand, and to shake thy rod over us, and threaten to destroy us, yet in judgment still thou hast remembered mercy towards us; and after the clouds and darkness gathered about us, the dread and distress were on every side of us, thou hast caused the heavens again to clear up, and smile upon us; and returned with the visitations of thy love, and the joy of thy salvation.

In the late dangers, thou hast been to us a tower of defence; and in the time of our need, and perplexity, thou hast shewed thyself graciously and powerful on our behalf. Thou hast helped us for the glory of thy name, and redeemed us for thy mercy's sake: not because we were worthy, but because thou hast a favor unto us! and therefore to thy name alone be all the praise. O what shall we render to the Lord for all his benefits! what can we give to thee our God, but the glory of thy own gifts and goodness unto us! O let not our hearts be shut and straitened towards thee, whose hand has been so wide open unto us. But do thou possess and enlarge these hearts of ours, with more and greater love and thankfulness to the gracious Giver of all our good things. And make us more sensible of thy goodness and love bestowed upon us, that we may give thee thanks from the ground of the heart, and have our mouths filled as with marrow and fatness, when we praise our God with joyful lips.

O make us a truly thankful, as we are a greatly obliged people. And let us not only mention the loving kindness of the Lord, but glorify thy name in bearing much fruit; more answerable to such mercy and encouragement as we have received from above. We can never enough admire and magnify the riches of thy grace, and the multitude of thy

mercies: But O good Lord, enable us still more to love thee, and better to serve thee; and in so doing for us, thou wilt still further oblige us: because in loving and serving thee, we do best love and serve our own happiest interests. As our minds cannot but muse, and our tongues speak of thy works; so let our lives be led to thy praise, that thou the great and good God, mayest in all things be glorified by us, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *Thanksgiving for Temporal Blessings.*

GRACIOUS God, the bountiful Provider for all the world's family! the eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thy hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Every year thou renewest the face, and the fruits of the earth, and givest rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons; to fill the hungry with good things, and to fill all our hearts with food and gladness. O how many of thy creatures have bestowed their labors, and lost their lives, and been consumed to clothe and feed, and sustain and pleasure us! O at what vast expense art thou continually to maintain the whole world of creatures, that every where hang upon thee, for life and breath, and all things! Yet thou art not weary to do us good: but still showerest down blessings plentifully upon us; to provide, not only necessaries, to keep us alive; but also variety of comforts, to make our lives sweet and desirable. Yea, thou delightest in mercy, and hast pleasure in the prosperity of thy servants; and makest us now to find, by our happy experience, how abundantly good and kind thou art.

### *For Rain.*

O Lord, thou hast sent a gracious rain upon thy inheritance, to refresh the dry and thirsty land, and cause it to yield its increase: giving us the joyful opportunity to serve and praise thee in the abundance of the provisions which thou art pleased so to make for us. O that men would praise thee for thy goodness, and for such thy wonderful works to the children of men! O good God, to thy name only be all the glory, now and eternally.

### *For Fair Weather.*

Lord, thou hast in mercy shut the windows of heaven, and put a stop to the overflowing showers that threatened to drown the fruits of the earth: and hast caused this sweet and comfortable change to refresh thy unworthy servants, and to make all the creatures rejoice in thy goodness. Blessed be our God, that deals so graciously with us: and glory be to thy name, thou great Withholder of all the evils, and Giver of all good. Let the people praise thee, O God, let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

### *For the Cessation of Infection.*

O thou great Preserver of men! thou hast delivered our souls from the hand of the grave, and kept us alive, that we should not go down to the pit; the jaws of death were open upon us, and we went with our lives in our hands: our hearts failing us for fear of the destruction raging amongst us, when the very air, which we drew in to give us life, was to so ma-

ny the sad messenger of death; and when thousands fell on every side of us, it has not come nigh us. But we have dwelt in the secret places of the Most High, and, under the shadow of the Almighty, have been kept in safety. O what shall we say, what shall we give unto thee, our present Help and only Saviour, in time of trouble! we are every way thine, O Lord; and to thee only be all the glory. We bless thee, our God, as those that are made alive from the dead. And O that the lives which have been given us at our requests, we may return them back to be spent in thy service! that we may love and please, and praise our God, while we have our being.

## *For the Restoration of Plenty.*

O GOD, the Fountain of all goodness! thou didst threaten with famine to destroy the blessings of the earth, which we have so wickedly abused: but remembering thy own tender mercies, and not our ill deserts, hast raised a new and plentiful supply for us. And now thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy paths drop fatness. Thou hast loaded the earth with the fruits of thy bounty, and sent abundance of all good things for the service and comfort of man. O make us more sensible of the obligation which thy love has laid upon us. And as thou fillest us with thy good things, so fill our hearts with thy love and grace to use every gift aright to thy glory: that in the use and strength of what we are continually receiving from thee, we may devote ourselves to live unto thee, and to serve thee with gladness and rejoicing for all thy rich mercy to us in Jesus Christ.

*For Victory over our Enemies.*

O Almighty Lord, the most High God, who rulest in the kingdoms of men, and dost whatsoever thou pleasest in heaven and in earth! in thy hand is power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee. It is thou that givest salvation unto kings, that deliverest thy servants from the hurtful sword. Thou hast saved us from our enemies, and put them to shame that hated us. It was not by our own power or conduct that we have been so prosperous; nor did our own sword or arm save us: but thy right hand, and thy arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hast a favor unto us. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory. The Lord is our strength, and our song, and is become our salvation. Now, therefore, our God, we thank thee and praise thy glorious name. And O what cause hast thou given us to rejoice in thy goodness, that thou hast not given our enemies cause to rejoice in our ruin! Great is thy mercy, O blessed Lord, and to thee alone be the whole praise and glory. O make us more sensible of this thy help at hand, in time of our need: and give us grace still to keep the memory of it in our grateful minds. O thou great Lord of Hosts, who givest such safety and good success, wilt thou teach us also rightly to use thy sweet and marvelous kindness and love; that being delivered from the hands of our enemies, we may serve thee, in holiness and righteousness before thee, all the days of our lives; and not fly out into licentious carriage, as if we were delivered to commit abominations; so throwing ourselves into the hands of our spiritual foes, after we have escaped the other, but demeaning ourselves, as the redeemed and obliged of

the Lord. O let us love and trust, and bless and praise the Reliever of our misery, the only Giver of all victory, and the God of all our mercies.

### *For Peace.*

O GOD of Peace, that makest wars to cease to the ends of the earth: that breakest the bow, and cuttest the spear asunder, and burnest the chariot in the fire! thou hast in mercy put a stop to the effusion of blood, and made peace in our borders; thou hast rebuked strong nations, to make them beat their swords into plough-shares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; that nation may not rise against nation, but every man sit under his vine, and under his fig-tree, and none make them afraid. O how sweet is thy mercy, and reviving, as life from the dead! and thou, O Lord, that hast given us peace, O give us also grace, to use it to thy glory, and to serve thee still the more freely and cheerfully. That we may not only have peace with men, but also with our God: even the peace of God that passeth all understanding, to keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

O that we may be sensible of the kindness and love of God our Saviour, as we ought, and ever give thee thanks with all our souls! dear Father of mercies! rather take all our good things from us, than leave us speechless and heartless to thy praise. O that our hearts may be enlarged in thy love, and lifted up in the celebration of thy praises! To thy name, O Lord, be the glory of all thy mercy and bounty. And may all thy works and all thy servants bless thee, and praise thee, and magnify thee for ever. And may we have grace to express the thankfulness of our hearts, in the whole conduct of

our lives: devoting ourselves to be thine in faithfulness, as long as we are in being. *Amen, Amen.*

### *Thanksgiving after a safe and good Journey.*

ALL thanks and praise that I am able to render, is a debt that I owe unto thee, O Lord my God: and I desire with all my soul to pay it; for that goodness of thine, which I have experienced all along now in my journey: where thou hast not only been nigh to me, and watchful over me, to secure me from perils of the way, and from every sad accident that might have befallen me, but hast given me success, and surrounded me with blessings and comforts on every side. When at every turn, and every step, I was exposed to the evils that might have hurt or spoiled me: and I might now have been groaning under broken bones, or bruised limbs, or other harms: yea, might have been cut off and perished in the way; and lost not only health and strength, but life itself: thou, Lord, hast in mercy preserved and kept me in safety, and brought me to see my habitation in peace, and all things here, even according to my heart's desire.

A horse is a vain thing for safety; and nothing upon earth can we confide in to defend us, if the blessed Keeper of Israel do not cover us under the shadow of his wings; and give his angels charge over us, to keep us in all our ways. But such invisible guards I have had; and such favor from the Lord of love I have found. Mercy and goodness of the Lord that has followed me all the days of my life, has been renewed afresh, and further manifested to me in these my travels. And O how inexhaustible is the kindness and bounty of my Lord, never weary to do me good! to thee, O God of my

life, and safety, and comfort, be all the glory. O fill me with a most grateful sense of such thy rich grace and continual mercy; and give me a heart abounding with thankfulness and with thy love and praises; yea, give me also grace to express the unfeigned thanks of my heart, in all the ways pleasing to thy holy will; through the beloved of my soul, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

### *Thanksgiving for Preservation and Deliverance from Dangers and Troubles.*

MANY, O Lord my God, are the wonderful works which thou hast done; and thy thoughts which are to us-ward, for good, they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: If I should declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. According to thy name so is thy praise, to the ends of the earth. The dead praise thee not, nor any that go down into silence: the living, the living, they shall praise thee, as I desire with all my soul to do this day. My heart is fixed: O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. I will be glad and rejoice in thee, and sing praise to thy name, O thou Most High. I will praise thee, O Lord, for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. I found trouble and sorrow, then I called upon thee; and thou wast attentive to my cry, and nigh to my help. And though thou mightest have made an example of thy judgments to others, as others have been made so to me, thou didst not consult my deserts but my distress; doing great things, and working strange deliverance for me, not because I was worthy, but because thou aboundest in mercy.

O, I was in woful perplexity: fear was on every

side: all my hope was ready to expire; and I thought there was no help for me, but I must sink and perish. Then didst thou, O Lord, interpose between me and the threatening mischief; and reveal thy glorious arm, to pluck me out of the very jaws of destruction: and set me at liberty from any amazing fears, and in safety from the dreadful dangers: and hast kept me alive, and restored my comforts: not taken me away in the midst of my days, nor cutting me off untimely from the land of the living; but sparing me in mercy, and giving me, as it were, a new life from the dead. Thou hast chastened me, but not given me over to death. When my foot slipped, thy mercy, O Lord, held me up. Thou art the God that dost wonders: wonders of power, and wonders of mercy. As nothing is too hard for thee to effect, so nothing is too good for thee to bestow. Yea, thy kindness and thy help at hand, in the woful time of need, is so sweet and surprising, that nothing can so affect and transport our souls.

Thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. I will sing of thy power: Yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy, for thou hast been my defence and my refuge in the day of my trouble. Unto thee, O my Strength, will I sing, for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy. O Lord God, merciful and gracious! I am now sensible of such mercy from thee. I will extol thee, who hath exalted me: and not suffered the trouble and danger to overwhelm and ruin me. In my distress I cried to thee, and thou hast enlarged me. O blessed be God, who hast not cast away my prayer, nor turned his mercy from me. But, dearest Lord! thou hast kept me in safety, and caused the destruction so to pass over me,

that I suffered but in my own fears of what I have so little felt. I cannot, without amazement, look back upon the perilous case that I was in, and the brink of ruin that I lay upon. And that I should escape, as I have done, O how marvellous is it in my eyes! and O what cause have I for thy praise, that I am here alive to praise thee! O my God, it is thy good hand that hast wrought so wonderfully for me, and thy fatherly kindness that has shewn such extraordinary favor to me: O! If I had been snatched away unprepared, how dreadful a change should I have found! But in mercy, and love to my soul (I give thee glory) thou hast made a way for my escape: and I am preserved the living monument of thy unspeakable goodness.

O what shall I say unto thee, whose name is exalted far above all blessings and praise! and what shall I do for thee, to whom my goodness will not extend! I can never answer the obligation which thy love, dear Lord, has laid upon me: but let me admire and love, and bless and praise thee, with all the capacities and abilities which thou hast given me. And O that thou wouldst imprint so deep upon my heart the sense of such seasonable relief, and wonderful mercy; that I may never forget, never slight or abuse the great goodness that thou hast shewed me, and the signal preservation, and recovery, which thou hast wrought for me: but ever give thee thanks with all my heart: and carry as one that is so highly obliged, all the days of my life: not secure and careless, because I have so escaped; but the more watchful and diligent, the more I have been engaged and favored: approving my thankfulness in such a manner, as thou mayest graciously accept in my blessed Saviour Jesus Christ.

*Thanksgiving and Prayer after Recovery out of a dangerous Sickness.*

O GOD of my life! in whose hand my breath is, and by whom all men do live, and have their days here prolonged or shortened, I was brought low, and ready to think that thou wouldst now determine, and make an end of my days upon earth; and counted myself so nigh unto death, that I expected every day, when that last enemy which lay in wait for me, would come and seize upon me.

But thou, Lord, hast graciously disappointed my fears, and rescued me from his hands; and raised me up to walk again before thee in the land of the living. Though thou broughtest me even to the mouth of the grave, yet hast thou brought me back, that the pit of corruption should not swallow me up. And thou that givest me life at first, has now given it to me afresh. And to thee, my God, I desire therefore, with all my soul, to give all the praise. O blessed be my great Preserver, the dear and only Saviour of my body, as well as soul; the God of my health, my heavenly Physician, my life, and the length of my days. O that I may live to declare the works of the Lord, and set forth the honor of his name! that I may not look upon my extended life, as an occasion to the flesh; to enjoy my liberty and pleasure upon earth: but as an engagement on my heart, to abound in gratitude, and love and praise, and all faithful duty, and cheerful obedience to my gracious God.

For in mercy to my soul, the Lord has given me a further allowance of time in the world, to fill up what was wanting in my spiritual estate, and to make a better preparation for the heavenly kingdom. And

upon this account alone it is that our life is so valuable, and our time so precious here upon earth; that we may have space to repent! and the opportunity to correct the errors of our past life, and to secure the greatest of all our effects; to serve our Lord to more well pleasing; and to dress up ourselves into a greater fitness to meet the eternal glorious Bridegroom. O that the life now renewed to myself, may also be a new life to the Lord. That I may not only say, I thought I should have died; but may carry myself henceforth as one restored even from the dead; and live with such dying thoughts, that when at last I come to die, I may depart with lively hopes of eternal blessedness.

For it is no total escape, but only a reprieve, that is now granted to me; and my death is a debt to nature, that must be paid; nor is there any avoiding it; but the hands of death, that have been catching at me, will yet certainly take hold of me; and I know not how soon I may be down again; and not only threatened, but enclosed by the grave; for that is my house, where, after all, I must take up my abode, and return to dust. And when I least think of it, O how suddenly may I be cut off, and take my last leave of this world!

O let me not live then as if I should never see death; nor put it far from me, as if it should never be upon me; nor reckon upon any sure standing, or long abiding, in such a changeable transitory world, that is but the house of our pilgrimage, and none of our home, nor the place of our rest. But when dust I am, and to dust I must return, O help me, Lord, so to remember and consider my death, that I may be the better fitted for it, in all the course and conduct of my life; with such wise and holy circumspection, carrying myself and ordering all my

conversation in the world: that when I must close my eyes upon this present scene of things, I may depart hence, full of peace, and hope, to enjoy far better and more durable goods than any are here to be found. And for my recovery, and such health as I enjoy at present, O let me pay my vows to the Lord: and from the ground of the heart, ascribe to the God of my salvation, all glory, thanks, love, and service, throughout the whole remainder of my life, and for evermore. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer for Blessing, Direction, Help and good Success, in any great Enterprize.*

O LORD God, infinitely wise and good, who teacheth man knowledge, and givest both the skill and power to accomplish our purposes; and also the blessings and success to bring things to pass according to our wishes! I know not what to do. But my eyes are upon thee; and all my expectation is from thee; and still I desire to wait, and call, and depend upon thee. A great work now I have to do; but O how little strength to do it! All my sufficiency is of thee, who workest in us to will and to do, of thy good pleasure. Thou that hast been my help, leave me not, nor forsake me, O God of my salvation; but let me be taught of God what I have to do; and let the gracious Lord make me to understand what is thy pleasure concerning me. O that my ways were directed to please thee, that I may have the light of thy countenance shining upon me.

My Lord and my God, leave me not in the hand of my own counsel, nor to the conduct of my own foolish and deceitful heart, but lead me by the way that I shall go, and guide me continually, that dis-

cretion may preserve me, and understanding may keep me. O make my way prosperous, and give me thy blessing and good success. Bring all needful things to my remembrance; and where I have not the presence of mind nor power of performance, O magnify thy power in my weakness; and let me go forth in thy name and strength, and speed, and prosper by thy grace and blessing. Let thy good providence so be my defence and security, and thy holy Spirit my guide and counsellor, that I may wisely choose, and rightly manage, and successfully accomplish, the things wherein I have engaged.

Thy will be done, O Lord, however I am pleased or crossed; and let me ever design thy glory, whether it make for my gain or loss, in any respect in this present life. O be thou still a gracious Father to me, and a merciful Provider for me; and grant me now the comfortable sense of thy good acceptance of me, and thy designs of mercy toward me. Be thou pleased to take me to thy fatherly care, and conduct and preserve me from the evils into which I am prone to fall, and quicken me to the good which I am averse to perform. O establish thou the work of thy hands upon me! yea, the work of thy hands establish thou it. My God and Guide, my Help and Strength; if thou lead me not, I shall run into errors; if thou keep me not, I shall fall into dangers: but hold thou me up, and I shall be safe. And let me experience thy power and presence with me, and all the goodness of the Lord passing before me, that I may so go through this and all the affairs of my life, that, at my last reflection upon what is past, my soul may have peace and give thy name the praise, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*A Prayer when going Abroad.*

O LORD, thou art the same God in all places; and no where can I go but thou art there. Both at home and abroad, on my way and at the end, thou art ever with me by the universal presence of thy grace, and thy good Spirit, to conduct and guide me continually; to protect and save me from all dangers and mischiefs; and to make my way prosperous, and all my affairs successful. O let the blessing of the Lord follow me, and rest upon me; and preserve my going out, and my coming in; and never leave me nor forsake me, O Lord; but be my God and Guide this day, and in all this my intended journey, and all my life long: which is but a pilgrimage and passage through this world, in which I am continually hastening home, to the period of all my travels, to the place where I must take up and dwell for ever.

O good God, make me continually mindful of that progress, and of that journey's end; and keep me from sinful wanderings, and those worst of all falls, to fall from my God. Take care of me, I beseech thee, and lead me, and keep me, and help me: and after all my motions here, O bring me safe at last to thy holy hill, and to thy heavenly rest, to the blessed end of my faith, the everlasting salvation of my soul, through the greatness of thy mercy to me, in thy dear Son, my gracious Lord, and only Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for Illumination and Knowledge.*

O LORD, the eternal uncreated Light; thou hast not left thyself without witness amongst us, but in thy word and works before us, in our souls and consciences within us, and in all thy crea-

tures on every side of us, we may see the tracks of thy presence, thy power, wisdom and goodness. That I have therefore no more and better knowledge of God, and the things belonging to my peace, it is my shame, and owing to my sinful dulness and negligence, in that which does most nearly and eternally concern me. Ah Lord, I have not improved in knowledge answerable to the light which thou hast caused to shine upon me, nor according to the means of instruction wherewith thou hast blessed me: but I have need to be taught myself the things whereof I might have been a teacher to others; for which I desire, Lord, to humble myself, and to beg thy pardon, and come now to ask wisdom of God, who givest to all men liberally, and upbraidest not.

I cannot see or know thee, O Lord, but by the beams of thy own light, which thou art pleased to impart. O wilt thou vouchsafe yet further and more fully to discover and manifest thyself to my soul! and teach me to know aright thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent! O blessed Sun of Righteousness, arise upon me with healing in thy wings, to scatter all the clouds of folly and ignorance, and error, and prejudice, that overspread my soul. Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law; and open my understanding that I may understand the scriptures, and not remain in darkness concerning any thing that is needful for me to know, in order to my present peace and duty, and to my eternal bliss and felicity. And whereinsoever I, or any whom I am concerned with, or for, are otherwise minded than we ought to be, O God reveal the same to us; and let us all be taught of thee to know thee, from the greatest to the least! and not be unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

That the soul be without knowledge is not good: O incline our ears to wisdom, and our hearts to understanding; that we may follow on to know the Lord, and increase in the knowledge of God. Shew us thy ways, O Lord, and lead us in thy truth. And whatever else we are ignorant of, unto us let it be given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God; and to know what we are to believe, and how we are to conceive of thy blessed self, and all the things of God that concern us. O Lord, our light, give us understanding in the way of godliness; a spiritual discerning of the things of thy Spirit; and make us wise to salvation. Give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation, in the knowledge of thee: the eyes of our understanding being enlightened, that we may see what is the hope of thy calling, and what the riches of the glory of thy inheritance in thy saints, and what the mighty power of thy Spirit, which works in them that do believe.

O put thy law in our inward parts, and write it in our hearts, that we may be well acquainted with thy will revealed in thy word; that the scripture may not be to us a book sealed, or a gospel hid; but a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; to shew us what we have to do, and how to demean ourselves in all estates, affairs, and circumstances of our lives. O that our ways were directed to keep thy statutes! And help us, O Lord, so to do thy will, that we may know the scriptures to be of God, and may have the witness in ourselves; and perceive the divinity of thy word, by the heavenly power and efficacy of it upon our lives. And though now we see but darkly, as in a glass, and know but in part; and cannot by searching find out the Almighty to perfection, yet help us still more and better to know our God, so as we can know; till here-

after we shall know as we are known, and to see face to face, in that blessed presence of thine, where is fulness of joy for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Repentance.*

O MOST holy Lord God, against whom I have greatly sinned, and who for my sins art justly displeased; thou hast revealed thyself from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, that impenitently go on in their trespasses; and hast let us know, that as we all have sinned, so, except we repent, we shall all perish. Even the Saviour of sinners will not save any sinner without repentance; nor dost thou remit what we do not repent; though upon our repentance, thou hast assured us of thy gracious pardon and acceptance: And when we return unto thee, and humble ourselves before thee, thou wilt shew us thy compassion, and grant us thy salvation. O gracious Lord! great is thy mercy to vouchsafe unto us this remedy; and to deal so favorably with us as to forgive and receive us, when we are but sensible of our miscarriages and rebellions; and humbly submit ourselves, and leave off to do so foolishly and wickedly. Such humiliation and reformation is the best and most needful thing for me to do; but O how averse and insufficient am I to do it! thou Searcher of hearts, knowest my heart to be so hardened, through the deceitfulness of sin, that as soon may I fetch water out of the flint, as godly sorrow out of this obdurate heart of mine, if thou the great God do not soften it with thy holy fear, and dissolve and overcome it with thy powerful love: and that I can no more turn with all my heart to the Lord than I can turn the course of a river to run back to the

fountain, unless thou draw me by thy grace, and give me power from on high, to enable me for the blessed work.

O thou that didst cause water to gush out of the stony rock, wilt thou break and melt my rocky heart into such contrition as works repentance unto salvation! Yea, thou that fashionest all the hearts of the sons of men, take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, broken and contrite, such as thou wilt not despise, that I may look upon him whom my sins have pierced and mourn; and be in bitterness for all the foul offences that I have committed against the Lord of love, the God of all my mercies. O give me such true repentance for them, that thou mayest also give me full pardon of them. Give me, good Lord, that repentance which thy holy word requires, and such as thy gracious goodness in Christ Jesus will mercifully accept; even the repentance unto life, never to be repented of. O help me so to repent, and to be converted, that my sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. Turn thou me, O Lord God of my salvation, and so shall I be turned, and change my mind, and amend my life, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance; not only confessing and bewailing sins committed, but also hating and forsaking sins confessed and bewailed, loathing, as much as ever I have loved, the things that displease thy holy will, and dishonor thy blessed name.

What I cannot recall, yet, Lord, give me grace to repent. And where I am, alas! so far from innocent, Father of mercies, make me penitent. And touch my heart with such a powerful sense of all thy loving kindness, as may work upon my ingenuity; to break my heart for my sins, and from them:

and make me sorrowfully concerned, that ever I should commit offences so great against the God so infinitely good: yea, make me so circumspect and full of care, to keep myself henceforth in thy fear and love; that I may never be so strange to thee as I have been; nor fall away from thee, and trespass upon thee, as I have done. O my God! let thy goodness lead me to such repentance. And help me so to break off my sins, and turn and cleave unto thy blessed self, that thou mayest have mercy upon me, and abundantly pardon all my abounding sins, through the infinite riches of thy grace and goodness, in the Son of thy love, my only Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Faith and Trust in God.*

WITHOUT faith, it is impossible to please thee, O God, and therefore I come to beg of thee that faith which is thy gift. Lord, help my unbelief, and increase my faith. Whatever thou hast revealed, let me take it upon the credit of thy word: and where I have thy promise, let me not stagger through unbelief: but fully persuade myself it shall be as thou hast said. O bless and enrich my soul, with such a holy, lively, and unfeigned faith, as may enlighten my mind, and purify my heart, and influence my whole life: such a faith as may enable me to receive Jesus Christ for my Saviour, and heartily give up myself to him for my Lord: so to be ruled and sanctified by him here in this life, that I may be for ever saved and glorified by him, in that life which is to come. O help me so to assent unto the truths, that I may also consent to the terms of the gospel: And work in me that effectual faith, which may work by love, and may

enable me to overcome the world and to live above it; looking at and for the great and glorious things of a better world; those unseen things that are eternal.

In my greatest darkness and distress, O let me trust in the name of the Lord, and stay myself upon my God; committing my ways unto thee, and casting my burthen upon thee, who carest for us; yea, putting my trust in thee, though thou slay me; trusting in thy almighty power to help and save; in thy tender inclinations to pity and relieve; and in the sure promises which thy love hath made, and which thy faithfulness will certainly make good unto all that wait and call upon thee, to remember thy word unto thy servants, upon which thou hast caused them to hope. And though I am not presently answered in the wishes of my heart, O let me tarry and wait patiently for the salvation of the Lord; and have my eyes upon the Lord God, till he have mercy on me. Yea, make me so sound and strong in the faith, that my faith may never fail; but that it may be found to praise, and honor, and glory in every time of trial, and at the great appearing of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer for Power to live by Faith upon Christ, and the Divine Promises.*

IT is the command of my Saviour, that they who believe in God, should believe also in him, as our only Mediator with the Father; to whom none can come, but by him: neither is there salvation in any other; who counts it no robbery to be equal with God: Yea, who himself is over all, God, blessed for ever. But it is life eternal to know him: And none shall perish that believe in him. O the riches

of grace, and the wonders of divine mercy, that it should so be done to poor sinners. Blessed for ever be thy glorious name, O God of all grace, who of thy abundant mercy, hast provided such a wonderful remedy for our sinful misery; to save us through faith in him, where we could not be saved by any merits or performances of our own.

Great and holy Lord! in all that ever I do, I cannot but see the extreme need of a Saviour: and that I am undone without the free grace of God in Jesus Christ. And therefore I desire to go even out of myself, and to be found in him; not having my own righteousness, but that which is through the faith of him; and to sit down under the shadow of that blessed tree of life, which yields the richest fruits, most sweet to the taste of all sensible souls. O that Christ, who is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth, may be the Lord my righteousness! that his righteousness may be imputed to me: And that with the heart I may believe unto righteousness: even so believe in Jesus Christ, that I may be justified by faith, and have peace with God through him.

The blessed Jesus, is my life and strength, my wisdom and riches, my health and joy, my glory, and my all: there is no healing for my soul, but in his blood: no peace for my conscience, but in his reconciling me to God: no satisfaction to my mind, but in that most perfect atonement, which satisfies even the strictest justice of heaven. O none but Christ; none but Christ! Without this all-sufficient Redeemer, I am a lost creature. I beseech thee, therefore, O Lord, whatever else I want, leave me not destitute of him; but give me Christ, or I die eternally. Though I confess myself most unworthy of him, and that I deserve to go for ever without

him: because I have so wickedly despised him, and neglected his great salvation, and abused all his kindness and love; yet I dare not add this to all my other offences, to despair of that mercy of thine, O Lord, which in him thou art pleased to hold forth, even to the most sinful and unworthy. Seeing thou art in Christ Jesus, a God reconciling the world to thyself, and hast given him to be the propitiation for our sins; and he came to seek and to save even the lost, and to call sinners to repentance; and invites to him the laboring and heavy-laden; yea, bids whoever is athirst to come, and take the water of life freely, without money, and without price: and promises that such as come to him, he will in no wise cast out: To him therefore I look, and in him will I trust; and of thee, my gracious Father, I beg for help to do it as I ought. O be thou pleased to shine into my heart with thy heavenly light, to reveal thy Son in me; and to shew me his all-sufficiency for me, and my own happy share and interest in him. Dear Lord! give me thy Son to save me; and give me thy Spirit to draw me to him, and enable me to take hold of him, to rely upon him, and to believe in him, to the saving of my soul. O make me more acquainted with the way of saving sinners by Jesus Christ: and help me, for my own part, to acquiesce in it, and to submit to the righteousness of God.

Seeing thou, O God of all grace, justifiest sinners freely by thy grace, not for the worth of our works, but for the worthiness of thy Son, through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ, O may it be given unto me to believe on him, and to repose all my trust in him, that believing I may have life through his name. And may I still be fully persuaded in my mind, that he is the true Messias, and

the only Saviour of the world; and never distrust his power, or his love; nor be faithless, but believing that Christ is my Lord and my God, who loved me, and washed me from my sins in his own blood. And the God of hope fill me with all joy and peace in believing, that this may be all my solace, and my soul's rest, to lie at the feet of Jesus, to cast my burden upon the Lord, and to lean on the beloved of my soul, and upon the promises of God in Christ. Though there is nothing in me but pollution and disorder, O let me not keep off from my Saviour; but come to him at his call, and believe in the name of the Son of God to be made clean and whole. None can more need his help, Lord, than I do: O that it may not pass by me; but let the Saviour of the world be the Saviour of my soul; and let Christ abide with my spirit, and be ever at hand to do me good. O that my Redeemer may look with such an eye of favor upon me, and revive me with some token of his love, which is better than all the enjoyments and comforts of the world.

Help me, O thou great Author and Finisher of our faith, to pray in faith; believing that I shall receive the things which I ask in thy name. O my Lord, and my God! make me to know and to believe the love that thou hast to me; yea, that thou hast loved me with an everlasting love. And let it bear me up under all troubles, fortify me against all temptations, and quicken and enable me for the performance of all my duties, to know whom I have believed, and to know that the Lord Jesus Christ is my Strength and my Redeemer. O that Christ may dwell in my heart by faith; and that the life which I now live, may be by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me: in whom,

though I now see him not, yet believing, let me rejoice with unspeakable glorious joy.

For it is thy gracious promise, Lord, to blot out thy people's transgressions, for thine own sake, and to heal their backslidings, and not remember their sins, nor let sin have dominion over them; yea, to have mercy even upon the wicked and the unrighteous man forsaking his way and his thoughts, and abundantly to pardon; to give to thy servants the heart of flesh; a new heart, and a new spirit; to teach them, and quicken them: to put thy Spirit within them, and cause them to walk in thy statutes, and to keep thy judgments, and to do them: to perform the good work in them: and though they fall, to uphold them with thy hand, and let none pluck them out of it: yea, to put thy fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from thee, and to preserve them to thy heavenly kingdom and give unto them eternal life. O exceeding great and precious promises! such cordials to poor fainting souls! But they are not too great to be made good: For faithful is he that has promised, who also will do it. It is ratified in heaven: and not one jot or tittle of thy word, Lord, shall pass away, till all be fulfilled. O let me believe that I, even I, shall see it. What time I am afraid, let me trust in thee; and give glory to God, in believing thy gracious promises, though I know how unworthy I am to have them accomplished upon me. Let me lay up thy kind words of promise, O my Father, as the richest treasure; and confide in them as the surest tenure: counting nothing so firm as what God hath said; and despising all the wealth and honors, and pleasures of the world, in comparison of thyself, and thy Son, and thy Spirit, thy love, and thy grace and glory; which I earnestly beg of thy bountiful hands, for Jesus Christ, his sake. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for the Divine Assistance.*

O LORD God Almighty, who givest power to the faint, and increasest strength to them that have no might! Without thee I can do nothing; not so much as will or think any good, nor keep myself from any evil; but by thy gracious assistance it is that I am enabled for the performance of every duty laying upon me: and my help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth: and thou art able to keep us from falling, and to make us perfect in every good work, to do thy will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in thy sight thro' Jesus Christ. Yea, thou hast encouraged us to come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Lord of power and love! I come, trusting in thy almighty strength, and thy infinite goodness, and thy gracious promise; to beg from thee what is wanting in myself; even that grace which shall help me such to be, and so to do, as thou wouldst have me. O my God! let thy grace be sufficient for me, and ever present with me; and let thy good Spirit help my infirmities, and strengthen me with might in the inner man, so to enable me against my sins, and for thy service, that I may be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might; and do all things as I ought, through Christ strengthening me.

O thou that hast shewed thyself still graciously on my behalf, and brought me on hitherto, never cast me off, I beseech thee, nor abandon me over to myself, who am a reed shaken with the wind, a leaf driven to and fro: but let me still experience thy help at hand, and my God performing all things for me. I will go forth in the strength of the Lord

God, and trust in the Lord Jehovah, in whom is everlasting strength. O my Lord! come unto my succor, and be thou my helper, to carry me on beyond my own strength, and to make all that I think, and speak, and do, acceptable in thy sight. O may I both put forth myself, to stir up the grace of God that is in me; and also find such fresh supplies of grace, that I may see my desires accomplished, and my endeavors brought to good effect: and so rejoice in the Lord and glory in thy holy name through Jesus Christ our strength and our Redeemer. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Sincerity.*

O MY Lord, the only wise God, whose understanding is infinite, and from whom no thought can be withholden! Thou fillest the whole world with thy presence, and hast all things ever naked and open before thine eyes. Thou that teachest man all his knowledge, shalt not thou know? O Lord, thou searchest the heart, and hast even the secretest of our sins in the light of thy countenance; and thou chiefly callest for our hearts; and requirest truth in the inward parts; and wilt bring every work into judgment, and every secret thing, whether good or evil. My God, I acknowledge and bewail here before thee, the guile and deceitfulness of my heart; that I have been so unmindful of thy all-seeing eye, ever intent upon me: and that I have made so bold with thy glorious Majesty, still present with me. For which I confess, O Lord, thou mightest long since have cut me off, and appointed me my portion with hypocrites. But as thou hast spared me, so humble me, I beseech thee, and pardon me, for all such hypocrisy, and treacherous dealing, whereof I have been guilty. And thou that speakest to the

heart, and canst order it, even as thou wilt, O make my heart right with God, and without any allowed guile in thy sight; so found in thy statutes, that I may not be ashamed; nor be found wanting of what I profess myself to be, when thou shalt come to take an account of me.

O let thy all-seeing eye, and not the eye of the world be the star to steer my course by; And let thy blessed favor, more than the liking of any sinful men, be ever my study and delight. Search me, O God, and try me; and whatever unpardoned guilt, or unrepented wickedness, whatever unknown error, or countenanced lust lies in my soul, O help me to see it, and of thy mercy, deliver me from it: and let me not regard iniquity in my heart: let no presumptuous sins have dominion over me. Let me not allow myself in any way of wickedness; nor go on in formality and hypocrisy to serve thee; but walk before thee with an upright heart, and do all sincerely and heartily, as to the Lord. O let me not be only almost, but altogether a Christian; obeying from the heart all thy will delivered to us, to be done by us; and not so much concerned to seem religious and good, as such to be in deed and in truth. Make me willing to part with the dearest sins, and to perform the hardest duties, for the sake of my Lord; who parted with the highest glory, and underwent the sorest misery, for the sake of my soul. O make me true to my own convictions, and faithful in exerting my own endeavors: yea, make me ever jealous over my heart, and conscientious in all my thoughts, and words, and ways. That I may not go self-condemned, for walking in a disguise, and only shewing to be what I am not; that my praise may not be of men, but of God; and that I may have continual rejoicing in the testimony of con-

science and that peace of God which passeth all understanding. O my Father, who seest in secret! let the pleasing of thy holy will, and the honoring of thy blessed name, and the enjoying of thy gracious favor, be the great end which I design and aim at, in all my actions and undertakings: that thou, the great and good God, mayest in all things be glorified by me, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Humility.*

O MOST High God, infinitely glorious above all our expressions, or our thoughts! Thou sittest on the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers: yea, before thee, all nations are as nothing, and counted to thee less than nothing and vanity. O what is man that thou shouldest be so mindful of him! yea, that he should be so unmindful of his own vileness and sinfulness, to exalt and lift up himself, and to swell with the conceit of his own worth and excellence! I desire, O Lord, to humble myself, that I have been no more humble; but have thought more highly of myself than I ought to think; and vain-gloriously set off myself before men, when I deserve only to be despised, and nothing but confusion to be my portion. O thou that resisteth the proud, and givest grace to the humble, give me the grace of humility, and make me mean and vile in my own eyes, that I may be accepted in thy sight. Make me, Lord, of the number of those poor in spirit, those humble and contrite ones, to whom thou wilt look, and with whom thou wilt dwell.

O set my sins in order before me, and make me to know my transgressions, that I may not flatter myself in my own eyes, but carry it as becomes poor sinful dust and ashes, who deserve to be trod-

den under foot, and to be cast out as the offscouring of all things; taking nothing but shame to myself, and giving all the glory to thee, of whatever is good in me. Great and holy God! make me more studious to be thy favorite than to be so accounted; and better pleased to do my duty than to hear of it: Neither of men let me seek glory, but the honor that comes of God only. And the more I have received from thee, the more let me ascribe unto thee: and not be proudly opinionated of myself; but give all thanks and glory to thee for any good wherein thou hast made me to differ: not loving or intending the praise of men, in doing the work of God; but performing all my offices, as one that is not only called, but in deed, thy humble servant.

O discover me so to myself, that I may still walk humbly with my God, and be clothed with humility: consider how frail I am, as a creature: and how vile, as a sinner. Let me ever detest and dread, and resist the pride that goes before destruction; and so humble myself under thy mighty hand, that thou mayest exalt me in due time. And for all the good I have ever performed or enjoyed, not unto me, O Lord, not unto me, but to thy name be all the praise and glory, humbly and heartily acknowledged and rendered, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Mindfulness of God's Presence.*

O LORD, the infinite, incomprehensible God! Thou art the high and holy One, who inhabitest eternity, and dwellest in the light which no man can approach to. And from thy glorious throne in heaven thou lookest down upon all the inhabitants of the earth: and hast thy eyes in every place, and ponderest every thing. Though no mortal eye

can see thee: no created understanding is able to comprehend thee: Yet thou art here, and every where present, and now and evermore thou seest us, and understandest our very thoughts afar off; and art thoroughly acquainted with all our ways. Yea, thou art so universally observant, as to have a particular concern for every person and action in the world. Great God, thou fillest heaven and earth with thy presence, O fill my heart with thy grace, and the mindfulness of thy presence with me; that I may set the Lord always before me: and evermore remember thee in all my ways.

O that ever I should forget God that made me! the God who quickens every thing that lives; concurs with every thing that moves; and upholds every thing that has a being throughout the world! O that I should live so much without thee in the world, in whom I ever live, and move, and am! and who hast still been with me, and watchful for good over me all my days. Holy God, because I have regarded thee no more, thou mightest make me sensible of thy presence, in judgments worthy of thyself. But O Lord, in mercy pardon all such my sinful neglect and inadvertence. And as I am ever exposed to thy all-seeing eye, so make me ever duly aware of it. And let the remembrance of thy presence sway and guide me, in secret and in company, at all times, in all places, and in all my actions: That I may demean myself as ever under the awful eyes of the great God of heaven and earth, and fear thee above all other powers; love thee above all other Gods, serve thee before all other Lords, and trust in thee more than in any other refuge. Yea, let me rejoice under the shadow of thy wings, and herein solace myself, that thou art at my right hand, and ever with me. O let not the remembrance of my Lord

be grievous to me; but let my meditations of God be sweet, as well as frequent; that delighting myself in the Lord, thou mayest give unto me the desires of my heart; and so guide me with thine eye, that as I am still manifest, I may be also still accepted in thy blessed sight, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Tenderness of Heart.*

ALMIGHTY Lord, the God of all grace, who speakest to the heart, and it obeys thee; and when it is grown callous and hard, canst make it soft and relenting; and give sight and sense even to such as are blind and past feeling! O shew the power of thy heavenly grace, in working upon this stupid, insensible heart of mine, so as to make me know, both the evil of my sins, and the things of my peace. And be thou pleased to give me such a sight of my sins, such humiliation of soul, and brokenness of heart as may prepare me for all the promised mercies of God in Jesus Christ. O Father of mercies! punish not my past sins, by leaving me to commit sin with greediness; nor ever give me up to such blindness of mind, and hardness of heart, as shall render me senseless and incorrigible. But quicken and awake my dull soul into a lively sense of sin, and tenderness of conscience, and due apprehension of my great and eternal concerns. O make me ever jealous over my heart, and watchful over my ways; continually fearing to offend, and endeavoring to please my God; keeping my heart with all diligence, that it be not hardened through the deceitfulness of sin; and keeping at that distance which thy holy word teaches us to keep from every evil and accursed thing that is provoking in thy sight and destructive to my soul.

O let me not continue in sin, that grace may abound; nor kick against the bowels of mercy, that so long has borne with me, and been so abundantly good to me: But give me, O my God, such a fulness of new life as may beget in me a greater quickness of spiritual sense; and make my conscience quick of feeling, even as the apple of my eye; that I may so feel my sins, here, as to prevent my feeling of them for ever, when there shall be no remedy. From hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word and commandments, good Lord deliver me. And give me a heart so soft and tender, as to smite and correct me for every, even the least, sinful evil; and to hold me back not only from gross and scandalous offences, but from all that is suspicious, or that has a tendency to sin; from the occasions of falling, and all appearances of evils. O let me so observe thee with child-like tenderness, and awful regard, all the days of my life, that I may not slavishly dread thee; so as to be consumed with terrors in the great day of thy wrath, but may then receive the blessed portion of thy children, who lived still looking and preparing for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for the Fear of God.*

O LORD, the great and dreadful God, in whose hands is my time; at whose mercy is my soul, and all that concerns me both now and for ever. Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry! The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and happy is the man that feareth always! But to harden our hearts against thy fear, is not only folly and impiety, but madness and ruin. I am afraid, O Lord,

because I have feared thee no more; but have made so bold with thy glorious Majesty, and with thy holy laws: who canst, whenever thou pleasest, avenge thee of thy adversaries, and kill and cast sinners into hell, that I have been so fearless in the ways of sin, where I should not have dared to be seen, and so timorous in the cause of God, where I should not have feared the face of any man. O absolve me, I beseech thee, good Lord, from all such guilt that lies upon me, and put thy fear into my heart, that I may never experience what a fearful thing it is to fall into thy hands. O incite my heart to fear thy name! And let thy fear be ever before my eyes, to restrain me from the evil of my ways. O let me so stand in awe of thee, that I may not dare to provoke thee. Let me not be so much afraid of any man that shall die, as of the Almighty ever-living God; nor so fear any loss or suffering that can but take away a temporal good, as I fear the sin and wickedness that would deprive me of the good everlasting. O let me fear the Lord and depart from evil; and have my God in such regard, that I may not offer wilfully to violate thy holy laws, but fear to dishonor thy name, or to rebel against thy word, or to rest short of what thou requirest at my hand. And O that thy fear may not only keep under some of my sins, but regulate my whole life, and sway my very heart; that I may do thy will entirely from the heart, and go on to perfect holiness in the fear of God.

May I fear thy name, and not blaspheme it; fear thy wrath, and not provoke it; fear thy word, and not despise it; fear thy goodness, and not abuse it; fear thy omniscience, and not make bold with secret sins; fear thy omnipotence, and not strive with my Maker in any case. And give me, O my God, the

right mixture of fear and faith, to keep me in an even temper, between presuming and despairing, that no crosses or evils coming upon me, may ever make my faith to fail or sink me down into such consternations as to unfit me for my duty; and that no successes, and fair prospects of the world's good before me, may harden me into a wretched boldness with thee, nor lift me up into wantonness and stubbornness against thee; but that I may keep up an awful regard of thy glorious Majesty, and a dutiful respect to all thy holy commands evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for the Love of God.*

O THOU infinite goodness and love, who art most sweet and amiable in thyself! and most full of invitation, for all thy own glorious excellencies, and unspeakable perfections; and also for thy loving kindness, and all the wonders of thy mercy and bounty to thy creatures! It is the riches of thy grace to make us capable of this blessed privilege, to love thee: Beyond which the highest angels know no greater bliss: Yea, thou hast not only given us capacities for it, but the greatest obligations to engage our hearts to it. Yet, after all the reasons and motives which we have to love our God, O how poor and defective has been my love! Yea, in what strangeness, and enmity to thee, Lord, have I lived! It is my sin and shame, and misery, to be so listless and backward to thy love. O my God, I have done foolishly and wickedly, in forsaking the fountain of living waters, to hew to myself the broken cisterns, that can hold no water; shutting my heart against the love of my chiefest good, who hast still been doing me good; and laid fresh obligations upon me with thy renewed favors every day: And preferring

any trifles and vanities of this present time; yea, and the satisfaction of my own foolish and hurtful lusts, above thee and thy love, which is better than life.

O good God, be thou pleased to pardon all the defects of my love to thee, and all the excesses of my love to earthly things; and turn my inclinations and affections from all vain objects to thy blessed self, who art the worthiest of all love. And, to conquer all my prejudice, and for ever win my heart, O shew thyself to me as a pardoning God: full of compassion, ready to forgive and willing to save me. Yea, make me to know so much of the love wherewith thou hast loved me, that I may make better returns of love to the gracious Giver of all my good. Touch my heart with such a powerful sense of thy loveliness and thy loving kindness, that I may experience stronger desires and inclinations after thee, and greater complacence and delight in thee; and may love all other things in comparison of my best and dearest Lord, as if I loved them not.

The Lord direct my heart into the love of God; and shed abroad and increase thy love in my heart, that I may love the Lord my God with all my heart and soul, and mind and might. O disgrace to me all such tempting things of the world as would draw away my love from thyself; and so discover thyself to my soul, as may take my heart: that this heart of mine which has been so cold and dull, and dead to thy love, may feel its mighty warmth and power; and from complaining of the want, may come to rejoice in the abundance of it. O my life, my hope, and joy, that hast so much and eternally obliged me! give me the grace and the power to love thee: Let me be still longing to appear before thee, and delight in the duties that bring me nigh to thee, and

that help me to communion with thee. Increase my love to thy word, and to all the things of thy Spirit and grace; and let me take more satisfaction and pleasure in the light of thy countenance than in the increase of corn and wine, and all the most desired enjoyments of this life. O let me not rest in the gifts, forgetting the bountiful Giver of every good thing, but draw and join my heart, dear Lord, still nearer to thyself with the cords of love. And together with all my enjoyments in the world, O let me enjoy still more of thee, my God; in the enjoyment of whom consists all my true life, and peace, and happiness, here and for ever. Engage to thyself, O my Lord, the chief and choicest affections of my heart; and take it, the willing captive of thy love: And help me still to verify my love of God, by hating of evil, and keeping thy commands, and delighting to do thy will, O my God. Let the desire of my soul, the care of my heart, and the endeavor of my life, be to observe and please thee. And to secure my heart, Lord, to thee, that I may not turn away from thee; but may be rooted and grounded in thy love; and through thy good help and grace, may keep myself in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Hope.*

O LORD God of hope, the blessed founder of all our great and glorious expectations! thou hast promised thy people such bliss and glory as is not only above all our deserts to enjoy, but above all our very thoughts to conceive. Yet it is not too great for thy Almighty hand and thy boundless love to give: And because thou givest so like thyself; and hast made preparations for thy people, answer-

able to thy own infinite greatness and goodness, therefore thou art not ashamed to be called their God. None has seen, or can tell, or think the things which thou, O God, hast laid up for them that love thee. But it is good to hope, and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. Even in dark days and perilous times, that make us know adversity, and threaten us still with more; yet patiently to wait for what we hope, till he that hides his face from us cause the light of his countenance to break out upon us.

O my God! give me such a hope as may lift up my head and strengthen my heart, and embolden my spirit, against all temptations and discouragements of the present time; that I may never yield to any consternations, so as to destroy my faith and hope, and unfit me for my work and thy service. O give me for a helmet the hope of salvation; that hope which may be as the anchor of my soul, sure and steadfast. O let me hope and praise thee more and more! and rejoice in the hope that leaveth not ashamed: yea, and hold fast the rejoicing of my hope firm to the end.

And though I am sinful and unworthy, yet let me hope in the Lord, with whom is mercy, and plenteous redemption, to redeem his people from all their iniquities. O gracious God, infinitely good! I could have no hope but in thy tender mercies in thy beloved Son, and in thy faithful promises; which do give assurance of pardon and acceptance to all that humbly and believingly apply themselves to thee, in the name and mediation of Jesus Christ. But I beseech thee, O Lord, remember thy word to thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. O seal me with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance, that I may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy

Ghost. O let Christ in me be my hope of glory: And having this hope in me, help me to purify myself, as my Lord is pure, that my hopes may be rational and well-grounded hopes, to see and enjoy the Lord, and to live in thy kingdom and glory most blessed for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Charity.*

O MOST gracious and merciful Lord our God, who art very goodness and love itself; thou hast commanded, that he who loveth thee should love his brother also! yea, that we should love our neighbor as ourselves. Father of mercies, forgive me all my sins of uncharitableness; and give me a heart to abound with loving kindness to all the partakers of my nature, that are the work of thy hands, and sharers in my hope. Let me not despise any for their low estate, nor hate any for their abusive carriage, nor cast off any as reprobate, for their scandalous wickedness; but be kindly affectioned unto all; desirous of their holiness and happiness, and contributing what lies in me to promote it; shewing the mercy which thou knowest I need; and forgiving others as I myself desire to be forgiven; yea, ready to distribute and willing to communicate. And as I would be glad to find favor and receive supply of my own wants, give me, O gracious God, a large heart, and according to my ability, an open hand, that I may give cheerfully, and sow plentifully while I have time, doing good unto all men, especially to them that are of the household of faith; yea loving the opportunities of such well doing; and blessing thy name, who hast so blest and enabled me; and refreshing my own bowels, in making the loins of the poor to bless me.

And, O that we may all approve ourselves the disciples of our Lord, by the love we have one for another; and shew that we are passed from death to life, because we love the brethren and bear the greatest kindness to the children of God; ever esteeming and respecting them above all; and tendering such as nearest and dearest to us that are so to thy blessed self. O let our love be without dissimulation; not only in word and in tongue, but in deed and in truth; loving one another with a pure heart, fervently; loving even the worst, so as to wish them well, and seek their good: and having our delight in the saints that are in the earth, and the righteous that are more excellent than their neighbors! loving them for thy holy image and Spirit appearing in them! and setting our hearts upon them, because thou art with them, and hast a peculiar favor to them, and with an everlasting love hast loved them. O Lord of love, keep me from censoriousness, and rash judging of any; that I may think and hope the best of all, which their case will admit: and love every one for his sake who has shewed the greatest love to us all, even our dearest Lord, and only Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Unity.*

O GOD of the spirits of all flesh, who hast made of one blood all nations of men, to dwell on the face of the whole earth! wilt thou make us to agree in mind and affection as we do in nature and constitution, and give to all nations unity, peace and concord. And as thou hast called the faithful, all throughout the world, into one body, so make the multitude of believers, as once they were, of one heart, and of one soul. O let not the seamless coat of Christ be torn in pieces; nor thy church be rent

into schisms and contending parties, fierce and bitter against one another; but make us one fold and unanimous flock under Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. O put a healing plaister on our bleeding wounds; and let not those invidious names of sides, and parties that exasperate, be kept up, to give distaste and prejudice; but take away from the midst of us that perverse spirit, which makes us a nation void of counsel; and not understanding the things of our peace; but dashing ourselves one against another. O God of peace! dispose our hearts to hearken to all peaceable counsels, and to comply with all healing designs. And to allay the heats which our dissentions have raised, that amidst the variety of apprehensions, we may yet keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; and evidence our relation to the Prince of Peace, by following after those things that make for peace.

O Lord, rebuke the storms of our animosities and debates; and say to those winds and waves, peace, be still, and they will obey thee. O wilt thou heal our breaches, and give us first the true peace with God, as the foundation for a firm and lasting peace with one another. O that the uniting Spirit of Christ Jesus may so far prevail upon us, as to draw and knit us together in the blessed communion of thy saints; that we may with combined wills and interest; as one man, put forth ourselves to advance the glory of thy name, the public good, and the common salvation of all our souls, through thy rich mercy to us in our blessed Peace Maker, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Meekness and Peaceableness.*

O ALMIGHTY God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men!

wilt thou be pleased to regulate my exorbitant passions, and suppress in me that pride from whence cometh contention; and beat down every rebellious motion that exalts itself against peace and patience, and gentleness and meekness of Spirit! O help me to put away all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, with all malice. And however I am tempted and provoked, O that I may possess my soul in patience; and not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good: And enable us, O God of patience, to bear one another's burdens, and to forbear one another in love, that we may not contend but for the faith of Christ; nor strive but to enter in at the strait gate; nor provoke one another, but unto love and good works.

O if thou the great God shouldst enter into judgment with me, and break out in fury upon me, as I have been ready to take fire at affronts, and to fall with rage upon my antagonists, Lord, how soon should I be consumed, and sink under the saddest misery, past recovery! O may I ever dread to be rigid and cruel, who know the extreme need that I have of mercy! And thou the God of peace and love, forgive me, I beseech thee, all the sins that ever I have committed against peace and love. O let the peace of God rule in my heart; and thy wonderful long-suffering of me be ever an engagement upon me to shew all meekness to all men; and bear the ignorance and weakness, the follies and mistakes, the wrongs and indignities of my fellow creatures; seeing I myself am undone, without the forbearance of God, and having nothing to hope for, and to comfort myself in, but the finding of such favor at thy hands.

O teach and help us all to live in peace, and to love in truth; follow peace with all men, and

walking in love as Christ loved us, that we may be united and knit together as fellow members of the same body, whereof he is the glorious head; who, though extremely wronged and provoked, yet did not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the streets. Of whom let me learn such meekness and lowliness of heart, that in him I may find rest for my soul. O my God! suppress all bitter resentments in my mind; and let the law of kindness be in my tongue, and a meek and quiet spirit showing itself in all the conduct of my life. And, Lord, make us all so gentle and peaceable, and easy to be entreated, and hard to be provoked, that we may be followers of God, as dear children; and that thou, the God of peace, mayest be with us, and delight to dwell among us, and rejoice over us, to do us good for thy mercy's sake, in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer under Abuses and Provocations.*

O MOST high and wise, holy and righteous Judge of all the earth, the great Author and lover of peace and truth! thou knowest my foolishness, and my sins are not hid from thee.—How far I have been accessary to pull down these troubles and mischiefs upon my own head; and how much worse than any of these I deserve at thy hands, is all naked and open to thine eyes. I submit, Lord, to thy correction, who dost often use such instruments of thy displeasure. And O that the ill-will of men may quicken me the more to examine myself for that which is offensive in thy sight; and make me more careful to have my heart right with God; and to ingratiate myself with heaven: which will more than recompence for the loss of any one's favor in the world.

But seeing my heart condemns me not in the present case, for being the cause of all this wrath and clamor, and malice and vengeance; and herein I apprehend myself now to suffer wrongfully, being slanderously reported, falsely accused, shamefully and despitefully used, and hated without a cause; I take the boldness to pour out my complaint before thee, O God, and to shelter myself under the shadow of thy wings. Plead my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me; and save me from those that rise up against me. Though for my love, they are my adversaries, let me give myself to prayer; and not avenge myself, but give place unto wrath, and commit my cause to thee that judgeth righteously. O convince my adversaries of the error they are in; and turn them from the ill-way they are upon: And the remainder of their wrath, O do thou restrain, and here make me a way to escape, as thou hast so often been my help.

I confess, O Lord, thou mighest justly use them that provoke me, as thy scourge to chastise me, for provoking thee; and I know not but such may now be thy pleasure. O help me then patiently to bear the indignation of the Lord; because I have so greatly sinned against thee; and however I am pursued and struck at, O let me not render evil for evil, nor railing for railing, but contrariwise, blessing; considering him that endured so great contradiction of sinners against himself, that I be not wearied and faint in my mind. If the man after thy own heart had so many bitter implacable enemies, that not only traduced his name, but sought his life; if thy holy apostle was called a babbler and troubler of the world, and a pestilent fellow, not fit to live; yea, if the Son of thy eternal love had the report of a wine-bibber, a friend of publicans and

sinners, a deceiver of the people, and a dealer with the devil; if he that deserved so well of men, fared so ill at their hands; if he that did no sin was persecuted, as if he had been the chief of sinners; if he suffered so much evil, who never deserved any, O why should such an unworthy sinful wretch as I, to whom belongs confusion of face, and the worst punishment, so heinously resent it as insufferable, to be set at nought, and but to endure the correction of my own wickedness; though I deserve it not from them, yet, how much worse do I deserve from thy heavenly Majesty, offended by my sins, who mayest justly pay me by their hands. Let men then say, or do what they can against me, O let me be as a deaf man that heareth not; and as a dumb man that opens not his mouth; little regarding the anger of man, if I can but be happy in the favor of my God. O Lord keep back thy servant from giving any just provocation; and let me not suffer as an evil doer; nor let the woe be to me, because offence cometh by me; and then when persecuted for righteousness' sake, I shall rejoice and bless thy name, and give thee thanks and praise for all thy grace and goodness to me, in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer under Infamy and Disgrace.*

O LORD! righteousness belongs to thee; but to me confusion of face, as it is this day.—Shame is the portion of my sins; and I deserve no better than to be slighted and despised myself, who have so slighted thy laws, and despised the glorious Majesty of heaven. If I had been innocent, I might have been confident to lift up my face without spot; but woe is me that I have sinned, to make myself

vile, and fit only to be trampled on. As far as I am obnoxious and guilty, I take shame to myself as the reward of my folly and wickedness. And O that I may so feel it here, that I may not hereafter awake to shame and everlasting contempt. And let not any that wait on thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: yea, where I suffer wrongfully, yet Lord help me to take it patiently. Though I am reproached for the name of Christ, and persecuted for righteousness' sake, let me not droop under the censures and scorns of men, if I can but find acceptance and favor in thy sight. Seeing it is not men's applause or reproach, that can make us happy or miserable, though we have their good opinion and commendation, we are never the better when out with heaven: and though we have lost ourselves with them, we are never the worse, when we approve ourselves to Him that searcheth our hearts.—Thy word, O Lord, gives us encouragement, suffering as Christians, that we should not be ashamed, but glorify thee on this behalf. And thy apostles who were made as the filth of the world; and the offscouring of all things, rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of Jesus. Though I pass through evil report as well as good; O what a small thing it is to be judged of man's judgment! And if thou, my God, wilt have me to be low in the world, yea, even a hissing and proverb of reproach, let me bear thy indignation, and submit to thy correction; not so much concerned for the disgrace, as to remove the cause; and be more careful and diligent to please the Lord, and to seek the honor that is of God.

If men speak evil of what they understand not, and perverse scoffers, walking after their own lusts, oppose and deride me, contradicting and blasphem-

ing thy truths, O let not thy holy religion ever sink in my thoughts for any of their hard speeches, or coarse usage; but looking unto Jesus, the Sun of righteousness, that once lay under clouds, the Lord of glory, who bore such reproach and infamy, who heard ill from the world though he never did evil in his life; and was despised and rejected of men, though he deserved so much better than ever any did from them; let me little regard what names they call any of his household, who can call the master of the house as bad. But may I still follow my blessed Saviour, in meekness and patience: having my eyes and dependence upon the great Author and Finisher of our faith; who first despising, and then surmounting the shame, art now set down at the right hand of the Majesty on high: and from thence shall come in great glory to judge the world: whose name be ever blessed, world without end. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for our Enemies.*

O LORD of love, the Prince of peace, thou hast told us, that thou camest to send a sword and fire upon earth; and that it must needs be, that offences come. Even the best of men, in passing through this tumultuous world are often jostled and evil entreated. And if it be the lot of thy own holy followers to have hatred and tribulation in the world, O what am I, vile sinner, that I should look to be exempted from this common portion! Such as I have made my enemies, by my folly and miscarriage, Lord, incline and enable me to appease and gain them; and so direct my ways to please thee, that thou mayest make them be at peace with me. And such as are my enemies wrongfully, Lord lay not this sin to their charge, but forgive

them, and open their eyes, and pacify their minds, and turn their hearts, that they may see their error, and first be reconciled unto God, and then live with their brethren, in unity and godly love; and that, at last, I may meet them in the arms of Jesus Christ: and those that will not cease from hating, Lord prevent them from hurting me; or, though they do me hurt, let me endeavor to do them good; and not hate but love my enemies, for thy sake who hast commanded us to love them; and who didst express the highest love to us in dying for us, even when we were thy enemies. Let me consider them as thy rod, and the staff of thy indignation, in all that I suffer from them, that instead of striving to avenge myself, I may submit to thy hand.

O, good Lord! mortify in all of us the carnal mind, that is enmity against God, and those lusts that war in our members, from whence come wars and fightings amongst us. Turn all our enmity against the common enemies of our souls; and join all our hearts to thee, in thy true fear and love, and that we may not meditate revenge, but study to be quiet; nor foment and pursue our quarrels, but follow after the things that make for peace; and with one mind, and with one mouth, glorify our God, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer under Crosses and Disappointments in our Affairs.*

O MY Lord! I live by thee, and do continually depend upon thee, for life and breath and all things. Thy providence has appointed my stations, and disposes whatever concerns me in the world; if not so much as a sparrow falls on the ground without thee, and the very hairs of our head

are all numbered ; thou canst not be unconcerned in the changes and accidents that befal thy servants : and whatever instruments and occasions have been in the way, it is thy pleasure, that so it should be with me as it is. Restrain me, therefore, O Lord, from fretting myself to do evil. And help me to take up my cross, and follow my meek and lowly Saviour, in self denial and quiet submission to the will of my heavenly Father.

O, who am I, sinful wretch, who have so much displeased thee, that I should never be crossed, nor have any thing to trouble me ! Thy will be done, O Lord, how much soever it goes against flesh and blood. And let me ever design thy glory, and endeavor to conform to thy pleasure, whether it make for or against me in any respects of this life. O that I may learn obedience, by the things which I suffer; that I may not be worse, but better in my spiritual concerns, for these rubs and disappointments in matters of the world. And O that the adverse things which interrupt and trouble me in my designs and enterprises here, may turn all to the glory of thy name, and to the furtherance of my comfortable accounts in the hour of death, and in the great day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer under Losses and Damage in our Goods and Estate.*

BLESSED Lord ! thou art the great proprietor and owner of whatever we have to enjoy : The world is thine, and the fulness thereof : Thou givest and thou takest away : blessed be thy name in all. Thou hast made me abound in many things which others are destitute of ; and if thou also makest me want what others abound with, yet teach me, my

God, how to be abased, and to suffer need, as well as how to abound: and in whatsoever estate I am, therewith to be content: Seeing all these things come alike to all; and no one knows love or hatred, by what is here before him. And as it will profit a man nothing to gain the whole world and lose his own soul, so all the losses in the world cannot undo him, whose soul is safe in thy hands. O let me not grieve, therefore, as if I were undone, for what I have lost; but cheerfully commit myself to thee, to chose my inheritance for me; and be least of all concerned for my worldly portion, so that I may but see the joy of thy salvation. And Lord repair to me these damages, in an infinitely better way, out of thy own fulness, with the more precious things that accompany salvation; that I may imitate thy holy servants of old, who took joyfully the spoiling of their goods, as knowing that they had in heaven a better and an enduring substance. O make me now the more solicitous and industrious to lay up my treasure in heaven; when I see how little any thing is to be confided in here on earth. O let me look less upon these temporal things that are seen; and be most of all concerned that I lose not the blessed things eternal, but provide so well for my soul, and be so rich towards God, that when all here shall fail me, thou mayest never fail me, but be the strength of my heart, and my portion for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer under Confinement and Loss of Liberty.*

O LORD my God, infinitely kind and good! I have through thy gracious indulgence long enjoyed my freedom in the world; and been permitted to go in and out, whither I would, at my pleasure; but now that I am under restraint, and

confined to this place, O how much sorer affliction ought I with patience to endure for turning my liberty into licentiousness, and flying out, as I have done, into wild excesses and disorders, to wander from thee and weary myself in the ways of wickedness! This confinement I acknowledge to be but the easy correction of my extravagance, who deserve to be shut up in the eternal prison from whence there is no redemption; but for thy dear Son, my blessed Saviour's sake, I beg, Lord, that this restraint may not be in judgment but in mercy to me, that it may bring me to the consideration and repentance of all those vicious liberties which I have taken, to live after my own foolish and hurtful lusts; and that it may remove me out of the way of such temptations and opportunities of sinning against thee, and engage me more closely and dutifully to attend upon thee, that in thy service I may find a better freedom than the freedom which I have lost; having free access into thy presence and boldness at the throne of grace, and deliverance from the bondage of my sins, and power to tread down the enemies of my soul, and to bring them under, that have reigned over me.

O that I may now be crucified to the world, as well as sequestered from it, that I may not be turned off with regret and a heavy heart, but may leave it in affection, as I am now shut out from its conversation; that I may in heart and mind ascend and dwell above, and have my conversation in heaven, and such fellowship with thee, my God and Saviour, which I may infinitely prefer above all the society and enjoyments of the world. If the Son of God shall make me free, I shall be free indeed. O bring my soul out of prison, the horrible pit of my sins and fears, that I may not there be kept in durance to the judgment of the great day; and I will then

praise thy name, let my body be shut up in ever so narrow a compass. O set my feet in such a large room, my affections at liberty to enjoy thy infinite Self, and to expatiate in thy heavenly kingdom, that is boundless and everlasting; and make me a fellow citizen with the saints, and of the household of God; and then, though I lie in a jail, and in a grave, yet I shall be a prisoner of hope, looking for that blessed hope, to be delivered from the bondage of corruption, into the glorious liberties of the children of God; even for his sake, who, for ours, was apprehended and confined, and put to death, and laid in the grave, and now liveth and reigneth with thy eternal Self, and Holy Spirit, over all, God blessed for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer under sad Accidents and Disasters falling on the Body.*

O LORD, Most High! the all-disposing God! thou hast taught us, that affliction rises not out of the dust, nor comes by chance, without thy appointment; but is the messenger dispatched on thy errands, who hast an over-ruling hand in all the disasters that befal us, whatever else be the occasion of our hurts: and still thou hast good reason to do as thou dost, though the reason may be hid from us. I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. O why should a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins? Great God! I humbly submit to thy hand, and will bear the effects of thy displeasure, which I have pulled down upon myself. O my Lord, give me patience, and strength, and grace proportionable to this great trial; and enable me so to demean myself under it, that after the affliction I

may find cause to say, it was good for me to be afflicted. Thou that hast torn and smitten, thou alone art able to heal, and bind up my breaches! O wilt thou remember me in my low estate, out of that mercy of thine which endurest for ever; and help me to find out the cursed things that have provoked thee so to stretch out thy hand upon me. O that I may search and try my ways, and turn to the Lord, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance; and for his sake who was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities, Lord forgive, and heal my soul that has sinned against thee; and in good time, repair the breaches made upon my body too, if it seem good in thy sight, and make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

If thou wilt, Lord, thou canst make me whole. O may it be thy gracious pleasure to work so wonderfully for me, and glorify thy power and mercy in my help and recovery; or however thou shalt dispose of this vile body, grant me, O my God, an humble resignation to thy will, and satisfaction with thy dealings, and make this sad dispensation which is so grievous for the time, gracious in the issue. O make it the messenger of thy love to my soul, and the means of converting and sanctifying it, and preparing it for the Lord, and fitting it to receive all the saving mercies of God, in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for a blind Man.*

O LORD our God! thou art light, and in thee is no darkness at all; thou hast created the light and the sun, and givest both the power of seeing and objects to be seen: it is a pleasant thing to behold the light; but of that sweet benefit thou hast

thought fit to deprive thy servant. O blessed be thy name, even taking away as well as giving, for thou art wise and just, and good in all; every thing that happens to us is of thy appointment, Lord of all, who hast made us, and mayest do what thou wilt with thy own; yet there is no unrighteousness with God; but whatever thou dost, is meet and right to be done, though many of thy providential ways are here in the dark to all as now all thy visible works are darkness to thy servant; yea, Lord, thou art gracious in all that thou bringest upon us; and canst bring the greatest good even out of the worst evil that befals us; and thyself art infinitely better to all thy servants than their eyes, and all the things that ever eyes beheld.

Thy servant here desires, with meekness and patience, to submit to thy heavy stroke, and confesses that thou art just in quenching that light of his eyes, which he did not use as he ought to thy glory.

But wilt thou, O gracious Lord, in judgment remember mercy; and bless to him this thy afflicting hand upon him, that it may promote his repentance and peace with God; and may cut off all the occasions of worse stumbling and falling, than any whereto his present darkness may expose him; that so many temptations, which enter in at the eyes, being taken away, he, freed from those interruptions and distractions, may better attend on the Lord, and be more intent upon the concerns of the soul; and more curious and exact in looking inward to the things between God and his heart; and in pressing after a better light than that which thou hast taken from him. Lord, as thou hast shewed thy sovereignty and justice, in taking away his sight, so let thy work of power and mercy be made manifest, both in ministering comforts to him, and enabling him content-

edly and cheerfully to bear up under the loss ; and also making it up to him in so much a better way, that he may be a gainer by it in his spiritual affairs, and what pertains to his everlasting bliss. O good God ! bring him out of the sinful darkness into thy marvellous light, that he may be light in the Lord, though he wants the light of this world.

O thou Father of lights, enlighten the eyes of his understanding, that he may see what is the hope of thy calling, and what the riches of the glory of thy inheritance in the saints, and what the mighty power of thy Spirit which works in them that do believe. Now that he cannot behold the temporal things, O that he may be more earnest in looking after the unseen things which are eternal ; in looking to Jesus, and minding the things of his peace and studying the mysteries of salvation, and the wonders of thy love, and the glories of thy kingdom. O thou Giver of all grace ! give him the eye of faith and spiritual discerning, to see him that is invisible, whom no mortal eye hath seen or can see. Gracious Lord, discover thyself still more and more to him, and reveal thy Son to him, and teach and guide him, and entertain him with thoughts and considerations pertinent to his condition ; and let thy good Spirit, as a counsellor and comforter, still abide in him, and bring to his mind, and work upon his heart, all things that shall make for his edification and encouragement in thy holy ways ; have compassion upon him, O Lord, and be gracious and kind to him, and do all that thou knowest needful and good for him, and lead him, and help him on continually, till in thy light, he shall see light, and have his eyes opened at the last to see the splendor of thy kingdom, and all the joy of thy salvation ; yea to see thy glorious face, to see thee as thou art, and to know as he is known in that hea-

venly presence of thine, where is fulness of joy; there to be with the Lord, and to enjoy thy sight and love, and blessed self, world without end. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer under grievous Pains.*

O LORD, thou art a merciful God, and dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men, when the necessity of our case calls for sharp applications; thou chastisest us for our profit, that we may be partakers of thy holiness. Blessed is the man whom thou chasteneth, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law! O that it may be in much mercy to the soul of thy servant, that thy hand is so hard upon him at present! Now that thou hast cast him into the furnace, O that it may be a means to purge out his dross, and to fit him for thy acceptable use and service. O that he may learn such things in the school of affliction, as may stand him in stead, and do him good for ever.

But thou, O God of consolation, who knowest our frame, and how little it is that we can endure, though it be so much that we deserve, be pleased to remember him in mercy; and make his sufferings less, or thy grace in him, and his patience and spiritual strength, greater than all his sufferings. O take the load off him or lighten it to him, or enable him to bear what thou art pleased to lay upon him.—Lord, all his desire is before thee, and his groaning is not hid from thee. O regard his affliction when thou hearest his cry; and enter not into judgment with him according to the desert of his sins; but according to thy mercy remember thou him, for thy goodness sake in Jesus Christ. O gracious Father, sanctify to him what thou hast laid upon him, that

the present sore evil may have a comfortable issue, and work for his spiritual and eternal good; and the Lord support, and bear him up under it, and bring him safe and happily out of it, to the rejoicing of thy servant, and the glory of thy name; and however thou shalt deal with him, O good Lord, suppress all his repinings at thy dealings, that he may not so sin as to charge God foolishly, who never dost the thing but what is most righteous and fit to be done; yet nothing but what thy servant shall once have cause to bless and praise thee for doing: but teach and help him to glorify God in the time of his visitation, by his humble submission to thy will, his patient abiding to thy hand, and his faithful reformation under it, that thou mayest return with the visitations of thy love, and restore ease and comfort to him, and shew him the joy of thy salvation, for thy own mercy's sake in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer under dangerous Sickness.*

O LORD God Almighty, and ever blessed, in whom we all ever live, and move and are; we acknowledge it to be of thy mercies we are not consumed, because thy compassions fail not. If thou hadst, long before this time, cut us off in our sins, and shut us up under final despair of thy mercy, yet righteous hadst thou been, O Lord; and how justly mightest thou now refuse to hear us calling upon thee in our prayers as we so often have refused to hear thee calling upon us by the motions of thy Holy Spirit; but thou art God, and not man; and thy thoughts, are not as our thoughts, nor thy ways as our ways; but as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are thy thoughts and thy ways above ours. Thou art our refuge and strength, and

present help in time of need and trouble; in which times thou hast commanded us to call upon thee, and hast promised to hear us, and to give us cause to praise and glorify thee for thy goodness and mercy to us.

And now we come to thee, O Lord our God, in behalf of this thy servant, that lies here in a low and distressed state, under thy chastened hand. Look down we beseech thee, mercifully upon him: and be thou gracious and favorable to him, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies in Christ Jesus; in as great danger as he is, yet if thou wilt, O Lord, thou canst set him up, and make him whole: if thou but speak the word, the thing will be done.—And in submission to thy most wise and good disposal of all things, we would beg this mercy at thy hands, that thou wouldst be pleased to rebuke his distemper, to remove thy stroke, and cause the bitter cup which thou hast given him to pass away from him, and make him a way to escape out of the affliction that is upon him, and to this end, that thou wouldst direct to the means proper for his help, and command a blessing upon them to promote his recovery. Spare him, good Lord, and restore him if it be thy will, that he may have a long time to work out his salvation, and be more useful in his place, and do more good in his generation; or however thou shalt be pleased to deal with him as to the concerns of his body, which we pray may be in a way of gentleness and tender mercy; yet Lord, let his soul be ever precious in thy sight; and may this sickness of his body be for the health of that immortal better part, to promote his salvation everlasting.

O give him a right discerning of the things belonging to his peace, before they be hid from his

eyes; shew him what he is to do; enable him for the doing of it, that he may have the sound peace with God, through Jesus Christ; give him the true repentance towards God, and the right faith in the only Saviour of the world; wash and cleanse his soul with the blood of thy Son, and the graces of thy Spirit, that it may be delivered from all defilements it has contracted in this present evil world, and be found safe and happy in the hour of death, and in the great day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fit him, O Lord, for living or dying, whatever in thy wise and righteous providence thou hast designed for him, that it may be unto him Christ to live, and gain to die; that in all, he may find cause to glorify thy name, still experiencing thy gracious goodness to him in the Son of thy love: if thou shalt please yet to release him from his bed of languishing, to live longer upon earth, O that he may live to thee in thy fear, and to thy praise, and do thee better service, and bring thee greater glory; or, if thou hast determined that this sickness shall be a sickness unto death; and this visitation his last visitation, prepare him, O merciful God, by thy grace, for thy blessed self; and grant him a safe and comfortable passage out of this wretched life, to an infinitely better, through the merits and mediation of thy beloved Son, our only Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer under lingering Sickness.*

O GOOD God, thou hast long kept thy servant under thy chastening hand; thou hast made him acquainted with grief, and his sickness is become even his own familiar companion; yet O blessed Lord, grant that we may not think it long to wait thy leisure, who art pleased to wait so

long for the return of a sinner : and who art very pitiful and of tender mercy, having kind intentions, even in thy bitter dispensations ; yea, chastenest whom thou lovest, and scourgest every son whom thou receivest. Teach him, O gracious Father, to see love in thy rod, as well as justice in all thy dealings, that he may humble himself under thy mighty hand, and also think it good for him to be afflicted: and patiently wait for the Lord, in hope of good out of this evil, and at last a happy conclusion of the long visitation. Blessed be thy name, O Father of mercies, that thou dost not pour out all thy wrath ; but in judgment rememberest mercy, to make the affliction supportable, giving some ease and relaxation from torturing pains, and mingling many sweet ingredients with this bitter cup. O make him so sensible of thy kindness and love, that he may be not only contented, but thankful under thy hand.

Yet, that his faith may not fail, nor his patience be wearied out, return, O Lord of love, at the last, and give thy servant a discharge from this warfare; and say to the affliction, it is enough. Make him glad, according to the time wherein thou hast afflicted, and wherein he has seen so much adversity : and till thou hast been pleased to remember him in such mercy, O grant that he may neither despise thy chastening, nor faint under thy rebukes ; but take all as he ought, and employ the time which thou lendest, and improve the affliction which thou continuest, as a gracious opportunity for his soul's advantage; that under the decays of the outer man the inner may be renewed day by day ; and all that is wanting in his spiritual concerns may be filled up, and whatever pertains to his everlasting salvation promoted and perfected, through the riches of thy

grace, and the multitude of thy mercies in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for one that is Stupified, or Light-headed.*

O THOU great Maker and Preserver of men, who knowest our frame and our frailty, how soon our senses may fail us, and our understanding depart from us; to what accidents, distempers and decays our weak nature is liable, even such as may make the most acute and judicious man quickly become as a child or idiot, and turn all our wisdom and ingenuity into folly and frenzy. We are every one of us in thy hands, O Lord, to be used as thou wilt; to have our speech and sense, yea, our very breath and life taken away when thou pleasest. Thou art righteous in all that comes upon us; and who shall say unto thee, What doest thou? Yet, even in chastising and correcting, thou keepest a measure, and dost not forget thy mercy and compassion, nor drivest us away from the throne of grace, but biddest us call upon thee in our troubles, and art still attentive to the prayers of thy servants: yea, waitest to be gracious, and wilt not let them seek thy face in vain. Hear us, O Father of mercies, we beseech thee; and let thy mercy now be shewed to thy poor weak distempered servant, according to the exigence of his case, in the time of his need.

Thou, O God, all-sufficient, who createst faculties, canst as easily restore them and give light and understanding even to the simple; and scatter all the clouds, and supply and rectify every thing that is defective and amiss. O that thou wouldst be pleased to shew thyself so graciously and powerfully in the present case, and repair the breaches made upon thy servant; and give him sense and apprehen-

sion sufficient to discern the state of his soul, and to see the things of his peace.

Thou Lord Almighty, who didst command the light to shine out of darkness, and often bringest order and beauty even out of confusion and deformity, canst lighten the darkest mind, inform the weakest head, and regulate the wildest imagination; yea, thou canst speak immediately to the heart, and incline and secure it to thyself; and canst convey instruction, and all suitable relief, where the doors are shut up against us. O God of all power and love, wilt thou speak to the soul of thy servant, so that it may observe thy voice; and seize that precious jewel for thy own, that it may be safe in thy hands. Lord, direct and quicken, help and assist him, where we cannot, and do the great work of grace, worthy of the wonder-working God, to effect salvation for him by thy own self, in the failure of outward means and applications. O have pity upon his infirmities, and be merciful to his mistakes and failings, his rovings and follies; give him, gracious God, a broken, penitent heart, and a believing, willing mind; and then accept him in thy beloved Son, according to what he hath; and of thy rich grace, make him an entrance into thy everlasting kingdom, where all the shadows being vanished and gone, he may see light in thy light, and joyfully give thee praise and glory to all eternity. Be gracious, O good Lord, and indulgent to him; and do all that thou knowest to be needful and good for him, through the mediation and for the merits of him who took part of our flesh and blood, that he might be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; and to thy mercy, in that hour merciful and faithful High Priest, we commit this infirm member of his mystical body, beseeching thee, O blessed Lord our God, to shew thyself

unto him a compassionate and tender Father, in the same Jesus Christ our only Saviour. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for a sick Child.*

O GOD of the spirits of all flesh, the only Giver and Preserver of life in every living soul; the smallest, as well as the greatest, are thy work and thy care; and neither without the compass of thy providence, nor below the notice and regard of our heavenly Father, who though so great above all, yet despiseth not any! O dear Lord, let thy thoughts be full of pity and tender mercy to this poor sick child, for whose afflictions we are now concerned; and send him that relief and comfort from above, which none of us are able to give; either lighten the load, or increase the strength to bear it; and deal gently and graciously with him, good Lord, beyond what we are worthy to ask at thy hands, even for thy own goodness and mercy's sake. Spare him, O Father of mercies, and grant him ease and release from his trouble; yea, make haste to deliver him, we beseech thee; and in submission to thy will we beg the recovery of his health, and the continuance of his life, to be spent in thy fear, and to thy praise, that he may continue to do thee service, and bring thee glory in his days upon earth; but, forasmuch as children themselves, who are shapen in iniquity, and conceived in sin, are therefore subject to death, which reigns even over them that have not sinned, after the similitude of Adam's transgression, if thou art pleased, Lord, to take him away so early, O let it be in mercy, and prepare him then so for thyself, that it may be to him the greatest gain to die; that he may not only be delivered from the miseries and dangers of this world, and

that to come, but by the quickest improvement, may be perfected in knowledge and grace, and made ripe and ready for heaven and eternal glory, through the infinite satisfaction and merits of thy beloved Son, our compassionate Saviour, who so kindly embraced and blessed young children, and ever lives at thy right hand to intercede for young and old; the only prevailing Advocate for us all. And to thy mercy in him, O most gracious God, we commend this afflicted child, beseeching thee to deal well by him, and be good and kind to him; and out of the riches of thy grace, provide and do abundantly, as thou knowest best for him, in life and death, and for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for a dying Man past Hope of Recovery.*

O THE hope of Israel, and the Saviour thereof in time of trouble! when all other hope and help fail, it is not in vain to seek unto thee for succor, who canst bring back from the mouth of the grave, and quicken the very dead; and where thou art not pleased any further to prolong the temporal life, yet canst deliver from eternal death, and bring safe to the blessed life everlasting; for the sake of which, no troubles or death should be thought too much to be endured; if by any means we may attain to the joyful resurrection of the dead, and get safe to the heavenly Canaan, the land of the true living, where death itself is swallowed up of life, and thy saints are above the danger of dying any more, and live full of joy to everlasting ages. We think it too late to beg the recovery of thy servant, O Lord, now that he seems to us going the way of all flesh, and justly launching forth into his everlasting condition; but though the time of his departure appears to be at

hand, yet we cannot think it too late to beg thy mercy for him, as long as his life is in him; and as we cannot choose but be greatly concerned for him, so we know not how better to express this our concern for him, than in beseeching thee to be good and gracious to him.

O Lord our God, leave him not, nor forsake him, but support and assist him now in his sorest extremities, in his last agonies, when he is to conflict with the king of terrors; let him find the most sweet and seasonable aids from the Almighty God of his salvation, and take him not out of this life till thou hast fitted him for a better. O thou ever-living God, stand by him in the dying hour, and secure him in thy hands from the daily enemies of his soul, and finish all that is wanting of the work of thy grace upon his heart; freely and fully pardon, and deliver him from all his sins, and accomplish him to appear with comfort and rejoicing in thy blessed presence. O make his departure easy, and full of peace and hope; carry him safe through the dark passage, upon which he is entering, and let him find it the gate of glory, and a door opened into the everlasting kingdom and joy of his Lord. Into thy hands, we commend his spirit; O thou Father of mercies, be merciful to him, and receive his departing soul; and when he is numbered among the dead, let him also be numbered among the redeemed and blessed of the Lord, for his sake, who himself died for sinners, and rose again, and lives, and is alive for evermore, and has the keys of death and hell. To thy mercy, in that blest Saviour of the world, O most merciful Father, we now humbly recommend him; beseeching thee to be all in all to him, and infinitely better than we are worthy or able to ask for him; and let him be thine in life and death, and for evermore,

through the all-sufficient mediation of thy dear Son, our most prevailing Advocate and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*A Prayer upon the News of others' Death.*

O LORD, the ever-living and all-disposing God, in whose hands our breath is, and at whose call we must all be gone out of this world, and our place here will be no more found! O what is man, every man living, even at his best estate, but altogether vanity! What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? The great and the mean, the wise and the foolish, good and bad, all yield up the ghost, and go down to the grave. Thou art pleased, O my God, to give me the advantage of seeing many of my neighbors and acquaintance taken away to their long home before me, and leavest me yet standing the living monument of thy goodness; with these opportunities to appear before thee, in that day of grace, which through the forbearance of my God, is yet over me. O what am I better than all my fathers and brethren, that I should be exempted from the common portion of all men living, when it is appointed to all men once to die: and I am as sure of my own dying as if I were already dead! O let me not be as the brutes that have no understanding, without mindfulness of my mortality, or consideration of my latter end; but in the death of others, let me see, as in a glass, my own frail and uncertain state in the present world; how slippery is my standing, and how soon I must follow all the vast multitude that are gone before me out of the land of the living. O let me make full account of it, and so live as one that surely expects to die, that when my own turn shall come, I may not go off

with a heavy heart, but depart in peace, and sleep in Jesus, having my soul safe in thy hands, and my body resting in hope of gloriously rising at the last day through him who is the resurrection and the life, our blessed Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer upon the Death of our dear Friends.*

GREAT God, the Lord of all, thou dost whatsoever thou pleasest in heaven and in earth; and who may call in question any thing which thou dost! Thou givest and takest away, raisest and dashest our hopes, sendest and destroyest our comforts, and thou art wise and righteous, and good in all; it is just we should be deprived of the enjoyments which we nothing but slight and abuse; yea, it is good for us to have those things taken from us, which our abuse makes hurtful to us: blessed be thy name, then even when thou takest away, as well as when thou givest; yet, O Lord, who art justly displeased for our sins, in mercy turn these losses to the advantage of my soul, and so repair the breaches out of thy own infinite fulness, that I may find thy own blessed self unto me more and better than many, even such, friends and comforters; they were but the instruments and means of conveyance; thou the eternal spring and fountain of all good, art still the same, and amidst all these changes, never changest at all; and what thou didst derive to me by such means, thou canst more than make out to me another way.

O my heavenly Father, take my eyes, and heart, and hope off of such poor dying comforts, to fix them upon the only satisfying good; in the enjoyment of which consists all my true life, and peace

and bliss; and let the great emptiness and frequent disappointments that I find in all the comforts of creatures and all the enjoyments of the world, teach me more wisdom than to place my affections and dependence upon them; and help to disengage and loosen my heart from them, and raise up my desires and hopes to the glorious permanent objects so infinitely to be preferred before them. O let me be more crucified to the world, where is nothing but emptiness and frustration, vanity and vexation of spirit; and may I have my conversation more in heaven, where is my blessed Lord, and all his happy followers, of whom the world was not worthy, and every thing that the soul of man can want or wish, O God of the spirits of all flesh, especially of the just made perfect, help me so to follow thy servants, my friends, departed in the Lord, that I with them, may attain at last, to live in the sight and presence, in the love and praises, and in the fellowship and enjoyment of thee, my God, blessed for ever. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Patience.*

O MY God! thou knowest what an evil world we live in, which I help to make still worse by my sins; and I that have done so little good, and so much evil, must not look for all good, and no evil at the hands of God. In the world, thou hast told us we shall have tribulation; and O that my tribulation may work patience, that I may go away contented with the load thou hast been pleased to lay upon me, and still possess my soul in patience however tried by corrections from thy hand, or by injuries from the hands of men; to blame the instrument, or complain of thy providence, under the pressures lying upon me, will but torment, and break

myself to pieces, and still add to that which I count so grievous to endure. O let me better provide for my own ease, as well as duty, than so to disquiet myself in vain; and whatever thou dost with me, O Lord, let me be dumb, and not open my mouth to reply or murmur, because it is thy doing; make me to acquiesce and rest satisfied, even in the bitterest dispensations of thy good providence; contented with such things as I have, and patient in the want of such comforts as I have not: and when nothing but trouble and sorrow is my portion, had I what my sins deserve, O let me not be querulous and forward, forasmuch as thou dealest not with me after my sins, nor rewardest me according to my iniquities; but may I patiently encounter all difficulties and grievances in my passage through this weary troublesome world, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in my brethren that are in the world; and it is but the common lot of all poor sinful mortals here upon earth. O make me patient to the coming of the Lord; enduring all grievous things with a meek and quiet spirit, seeing they are happy that endure; and such as endure to the end shall be saved. O my Lord, let no pains or sufferings ever drive me from thee, but rather be a means to bring me nearer to thee; and let the remembrance of the great day of the Lord, and the eternal state of the world to come, work in me a contempt of this world, mortification of my lusts, and patient abiding of the cross; seeing it is of so little consideration, what we do enjoy or endure here for a short season, so that we be delivered from the wrath to come, and it may go well with us for ever. O let me, by patient continuance in well-doing, seek for glory and honor, and immortality, and count nothing in this world either dear to possess, or intolerable to suffer;

so that I may finish my course with joy, and at last rest from all my labors and troubles, with the redeemed and blessed of the Lord; which I wait and beg for at thy good hands, O my gracious Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Preparation and Readiness to Die.*

LORD, what is our life but a vapor that appears for a little time, and then vanisheth away! even at the longest, how short; and at the strongest how frail! and when we think ourselves most secure, yet we know not what a day may bring forth, to turn us out of all; nor how soon thou mayest come, before we are aware, to call us to our last account. Quickly shall we be as water spilt on the ground, that cannot be gathered up again: quickly snatched away from hence, and our place here shall know us no more for ever; our days, one after another, are spent apace, and we know not how near to us is our last day, when our bodies shall be laid up in the grave, and our souls called to appear at the tribunal of God, to receive our standing doom, for bliss or woe eternal. Yet, O good God, how have I lived in this world, as if I should never leave it! how unmindful of my latter end! how improvident of my time! how careless of my soul! how negligent in my preparation for my everlasting condition! so that thou mayest justly bring my last hour as a snare upon me, to surprize me in my sins, and my unpreparedness to appear before thee. But, O dear Father of mercies, remember not my sins against me; but remember thy own tender mercies, and thy loving kindnesses which have been ever of old. O remember how short my time is, and spare me, that I may recover

my strength before I go hence, and be no more seen; make me so wise as to understand and consider my latter end, and to remember also, myself, the shortness of my time: and teach me so to number my days, that I may apply my heart to the true wisdom. Lord, what have I to do in this world, but to make ready for the world to come. O that I may be mindful of it, and intent upon it, to finish my work before I finish my course!

In the days of my health and peace, and prosperity, O that I may remember, and provide for the time of trouble and sickness, and death, when the world's enjoyment shall shrink away from me, and prove utterly unable to support and help me. O let me never allow myself in any course of living wherein I would be loth or afraid to die; but let me see my sins die before me, that they may never rise up in judgment against me, and enable me so to die unto them daily that I may not die for sin eternally. Instruct me, good Lord, and assist me in my great work of preparation for a dying hour, that I may not then be dreadfully surprized, but meet it with courage and comfort. O gracious God, shew me how to do it: quicken me into a serious concernment about it, and help me with good success to perform it, that I may be fitted for heaven ere I leave this earth, and may have the sound peace with God, through Jesus Christ, before I depart hence into the state, where I must abide for ever. O my Lord, make me so ready to meet thee at thy coming, that thy coming may be the matter of my hopes and desires, and joyful expectations, that I may love the appearance of Christ, who is my life, and long for that blessed time, when thou wilt put an everlasting period to all my sins and troubles, and temptations here, and exchange

my present being in the body, to be ever with the Lord. O my strength, help me so to live, as, at the hour of death, I shall wish that I had lived, and so to make ready for death all my days, that at my last day I may have nothing to do but to die, and cheerfully resign my spirit into thy gracious hands, O my Father, and find a merciful admission to thy favor and to thy kingdom, for the sake of my only Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer in Public Commotions and Distractions.*

ALMIGHTY Lord, the righteous God! thy judgments are in all the earth; and it is no wonder if this wicked world should be also a troublesome world, where wars and rumors of wars are abroad, and the sword is making havoc among the nations; and though we have hitherto been kept from such wasting calamities as have swept away multitudes of our brethren, yet thou, for our sins, hast now broken our nation, and made it tremble: O heal the breaches of it, for it shaketh. We have no sanctuary to fly to for refuge, but that mercy of thine, O good God, which we have so much and so often abused and despised; nor any help from trouble, but what we seek at thy hands, who for our sins art justly displeased. O thou that waitest to be gracious, and whose mercy endureth for ever, have compassion on us, and spare us, good Lord; spare thy people whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood, and still signalized with thy wonderful mercies; and turn us again, O Lord God of hosts; cause thy face to shine upon us, and we shall be saved. O make us a way to escape out of those fears and dangers wherein our sins have involved us, that peace may be restored, and the gospel of

peace in much mercy continued to us in our posterity, as long as the world endures. O that we may learn righteousness by thy judgments, and not dare to go on in our trespasses and rebellions against thee, when thou hast a controversy with us, and art making inquisition for blood amongst us; but let us so turn to thee in the way of our duty, that thou mayest turn to us in a way of saving mercy; and seeing this is not our rest, and little but alarms and commotions, and one deep calling to another, is to be expected in this uncertain tumultuous world, O that we may have our eyes further than the ends of the earth, and lift them up to the Lord, from whom cometh our help, and seek the continuing city to come, and lay up our rest and our treasure in that kingdom which cannot be moved; that we may choose the good part which shall not be taken from us, and flee from the wrath to come, and have peace in our Lord, and hope in our death; even the hope of that eternal life, which is thy promise and gift, O blessed God, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer in Time of threatening Dangers.*

GREAT God, holy and just! I am amazed and terrified to think of the dreadful wages which my sins have deserved; fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and my spirit is overwhelmed, and my heart fails me for fear, so that I know not what to do; but my eyes are upon thee, my great Saviour, and mighty Deliverer, to give me that help which from man it is vain to expect; and this time that I am afraid, I will trust in thee; and under the shadow of thy wings make my refuge, till these calamities be over-past. O my Lord, take me to thy

fatherly care, and thy almighty protection, and save me from the hands of my enemies, and from feeling the evils which I fear to come upon me: O dispel the clouds, and turn away the storms, and clear up the face of heaven, so blackened now over our heads. Thou, O Lord, that knowest how to deliver, and never art at a loss to effect what thou wilt, command deliverances for me, I beseech thee; and be not far from me, when trouble seems so nigh to me, but let me find thy help at hand, in this time and case of my need.

O my God, thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower of defence from the enemy; and though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt receive me; thou wilt stretch forth thy hand upon my enemy, and thy right hand shall save me. O my Saviour, I fly to thee to hide me; be thou pleased to defend me from them that rise up against me: consider the trouble that I suffer of them that hate me, and lead me in thy righteousness because of my enemies; make thy way straight before my face. Deliver me, O Lord, from the evil and violent man, and from my persecutors that are stronger than I. O let not any that are my enemies wrongfully rejoice over me; but shew me some token for good that they who hate me may see it and be ashamed, because thou Lord hast helped and comforted me. O fortify me against that fear of any men which would terrify me out of my duty to thee, my God; let me never be so awed by them as to make bold with thee, and trespass upon thee to escape them, or to ingratiate myself with them. Thou hast been my help, be thou pleased to come in now to my succor, and shew thyself graciously and powerfully on my behalf. Do it, Lord, for the glory of thy name, for the merits of thy Son, and for thy own mercy's sake, that I may see thy hand, and

praise thy power, and admire thy love, and adore thy grace and goodness, while I have my being. *Amen, Amen.*

*A Prayer upon the Remembrance of former Sins.*

O WHO can understand his errors! Who can call to mind the innumerable offences of all his life! when, ever since we could do any thing, alas! what have we done that is free from sin! but, O the heinous offences, the presumptuous sins, the great transgressions whereof I have been guilty, which stare me in the face, and recoil upon my heart, and cast down my soul within me; because I have committed them with so many foul aggravating circumstances, against such light and love, means and mercies, calls and warnings, convictions, and experiences, and all the many and mighty obligations from the Lord which I have had; I am covered with confusion, O my God, and filled with bitter remorse, and ghastly fears, as often as I look back upon such blots, and falls, and scandals of my life. O, if they should rise up in the judgment against me, they could not but utterly sink and ruin me. But Lord, my God, help me so to remember that thou mayest forget them; so to charge them upon myself that thou mayest never lay them to my charge; so to keep them before my eyes, to abase and humble my soul, that thou mayest hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities; especially those that are so confounding and terrible to my thoughts. O let me ever walk humbly before thee, seeing I have so shamefully sinned against thee; and though thou hast kept me from my deserved shame in this world, O let not thy indulgence embolden me to repeat the wickedness;

but let this thy goodness, O my God, work in me a more deep and serious repentance.

And thou, Lord Almighty, who alone canst bring good out of evil, be thou pleased to make my past falls an occasion of my surer standing for the future. O embitter the pleasures of sin to me, and hedge up the ways of wickedness, as with briars and thorns, before me, that I may loath as much as ever I have loved the offensive things, and never return again to such folly. O let the flames wherewith I have been scorched, terrify me from being any more so concerned, and let the sense and remembrance of all the former offences of my life quicken and awaken me, as into the deeper repentance for them, so into the more careful circumspection and watchfulness against them, that I may not be so strange to thee, my God, as I have been, nor trespass upon thee, and rebel against thee as I have done, but pass the time of my sojourning here in fear, and be more tender, and wary, and vigilant, all the days of my life. *Amen, Amen.*

## *A Prayer under Fears and Doubts of our Spiritual Condition.*

O LORD my God, I hope thou hast, of thy rich mercy, changed and renewed me in some measure, and wrought a good work upon me, bring me out of my natural and damnable condition, into the state of grace and salvation; for yet the carnal nature is so predominant over me, and many sins so lively and strong in me, and still I find the good things of thy Spirit in so much weakness and imperfection upon me, that the sorrows of my heart are enlarged, and my soul is disquieted within me, seeing too frequent cause to question, whether my

spots are the spots of thy children; whether I have known the grace of God in truth, and whether I do not deceive myself, in reckoning upon that which I neither am or have.

Mine eyes are to thee, O God the Lord, leave not my soul destitute. From the ends of the earth will I cry to thee: when my heart is overwhelmed within me, lead me to the rock that is higher than I. O Lord rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy sore displeasure. Forsake me not, O my God; be not far from me; make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation. Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low; hear me speedily, my spirit fails. Save me, O God, for the waters are come into my soul; I sink in the deep mire, where there is no standing. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name.

O shew me the true state of my soul, and make me to know the things that are freely given me of God; and deliver me, gracious Lord, from all those offensive matters that provoke thee to hide thy face from me, and that wrap up my soul in clouds and darkness, and make me so much a stranger to peace and comfort. O grant me a clear discovery of the evidences of my calling and election; and seal a comfortable assurance of thy blessed love in Christ Jesus to my soul. O thou that didst bid the winds and waves, Peace, be still, and they obeyed thee; settle my discomposed mind, and quiet my troubled breast, and bring me to see the light of thy countenance, and the joy of thy salvation. O thou that art of power to establish us, be pleased to establish my heart with grace, and let me be rooted and grounded in the faith, that I may not stagger through unbelief, but hold the beginning of my confidence stedfast to the end. Rejoice the soul of thy servant; for un-

to thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul; and let the joy of the Lord be my strength, to make me victorious over my sins, and always to abound in thy work; never pleased so much with any thing as to do the thing pleasing to my God, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer under the Dread of God's Wrath, and everlasting Damnation.*

O LORD, the great and dreadful God, against whom I have greatly sinned; and who for my sins art justly displeased! when I consider the holiness of thy laws, and the strictness of thy justice; and when I reflect upon the heinous and innumerable sins of my heart and life, my flesh trembles for fear of thee, and I am afraid of thy judgments. O who may stand in thy sight, when once thou art angry! who can bear up for ever under all the vials of thy wrath, to the uttermost poured out, when thy mercy shall be clean gone, and thou shalt cast off, and shew favor no more! yet even that damnation would be my woful portion, which I could no more avoid than abide, shouldest thou, O Lord, enter into judgment with me, and proceed as most justly thou mightest against me, I could then hope for no better, but to be deprived of all the comforts of this life, and to be delivered into the bitter pains of eternal death. But though the wages of my sins be that death, yet the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. O for his dear sake, who has satisfied thy justice, and appeased thy wrath for all our offences, even thy Son, who was delivered up into the hands of sinners, that he might deliver us from the wrath to come, and suffered and died once, that we might not suffer and die for ever; O God, the Father of heaven, have mercy upon me,

a miserable sinner ; and from thy wrath, and from everlasting damnation, good Lord deliver me, and help me in the fear of thee, my God, to flee from the wrath to come, and to rid my hands and my heart of every cursed thing that provokes the Lord to kill and cast sinners into hell.

O thou blessed Saviour of the world, save me from my sins, and from all their dismal effects, and reconcile me to God, and make my peace through the blood of thy cross. Thou tookest upon thee our mortal nature, that thou mighest, through death, destroy him who had the power of death, and deliver them, who through fear of death, were all their life time subject to bondage. Have compassion, Lord, I beseech thee, on my infirmities, and suffer me not to fall a prey to my own fears, but be surety for thy servant, to undertake for all my heavy scores, wherein I have run myself in such great arrears to the justice of heaven ; and give me everlasting consolation, and good hope, through grace, and being justified by faith, O let me have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Hide not thy face from me, O my Lord, lest I be like to them that go down into the pit ; but revive my soul with the sense of thy love, and the hopes of thy full absolution, and everlasting salvation, that I may give thee thanks from the ground of the heart, and shew with gladness what thou hast done for thy redeemed, and joyfully sing thy praise, and keep in thy love, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer under strong Temptations.*

HOLY GOD ! I desire to humble myself here before thee, for that continual proneness

which is in me to sin against thee, that I am so unlike to thee, and so contrary to what thy holy laws require me to be. After all the great things thou hast done for me, alas! how apt am I still to spoil and undo myself! The malicious tempter is laying snares for me every where; and the things of this world are still pressing hard upon me, either to terrify me out of my duty, or to humor me into my ruin. And O how ready is my sinful flesh to side with the cruel enemy against my own soul! Innumerable evils have compassed me about; my iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of my head, therefore my heart fails me. O the sin that still dwelleth in me, that is so nigh to me, that does so easily beset me, and is so apt to prevail against me, to pull me away from the obedience of thy blessed will, and to engage me in forbidden things, displeasing in thy sight, and destructive to my soul! O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death? when the custom of sinning has so increased my sinful inclinations, that the leopard may as soon change his spots, and the Ethopian his skin, as I who am so accustomed to evil can of myself, cease from it, if the Lord of hosts be not with me; if the God of Jacob be not my refuge.

But with thee, the Almighty God, all things are possible; yea, thou canst as easily make us holy as bid us be so. To thee the very powers of hell are weakness; nothing in the world can resist thy will. O pity thy poor tempted creature, and give me not up, in justice, to a reprobate sense, and to vile affections, nor to such blindness of mind and hardness of heart, as should render me past feeling; nor ever punish my former sins, by giving me over to

their sway and power; but let it be thy gracious pleasure, O Lord, that all my prevailing iniquities may flee and perish at thy presence. O give out the commanding word to those filthy corruptions, Hitherto shall ye go and no further. Speak death to my sins, that my soul may live, and for ever bless thy name. Stop and heal the running sores, that they may no more break out as they have done, to the dishonor of thy name, the wounding of my conscience, and hindering the concerns of my own and others present peace, and eternal bliss; yea, so sanctify my nature, O Lord, and renew me, even in the spirit of my mind, that my heart may rise against the sinful evils, and that I may hate all iniquity, and every false way; so resisting the devil, that I may not conspire with the deadly enemy of souls to undo myself. O give me power from on high, to set me above the power of my sins; and give me grace sufficient to turn my heart against the love of my sins, that I may not be false in thy covenant, nor false to my own chief interest, but manfully fight thy battles, and approve myself thy faithful soldier and servant to my life's end; that being so faithful until death, thou mayest give unto me the crown of life, and take me at last from this warfare to reign with thee, world without end. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Chastity.*

O GOD of infinite purity, thou hast called us, not to uncleanness, but to holiness; thou hast commanded us to be holy as thou art holy; and hast promised to none but the pure in heart to see and enjoy thee in the beauties of holiness, and the joys above. O how shall I, a polluted wretch, shew myself before thy heavenly Majesty, who art

perfect purity ; and in whose sight even heaven itself is not clean ? O most gracious Lord ! look not upon me as I am in myself, and as I through my sins have made myself, vile, even in my own eyes ; for then thou canst not choose but abhor my soul, and pour out all thy wrath upon me ; but wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from all my sin and guilt in that fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness, the precious blood of the Lamb of God, slain to take away the sins of the world. Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean : O create a clean heart in me, and say to my sin-defiled soul, as thou didst to the leper, I will, be thou clean, and I shall be cleansed and fitted now for thy holy service, and hereafter for thy heavenly glory. O my God ! cast the unclean spirit out of thy temple ; and if he will not go out but by prayer and fasting, let me add such abstinence to my prayers, as may help to starve the fleshly lusts that war against my soul : and by any means help me, my strength and my Redeemer, to possess my vessel in sanctification, and honor ; not in the lust of concupiscence, as those that know not God. Holy Lord, chase away the birds of prey that would devour thy sacrifice ; and drive out these unclean beasts that would trample down the plantation of thy grace in my soul. O let me not live after the flesh, lest I eternally die ; but by thy Spirit so mortify the deeds of the body, that I may for ever live ; instead of doing the works of the flesh, let me hate the very garment spotted with it ; and not without detestation once name the filthy lusts. Help me, my God, to avoid every occasion of falling, and to abstain from all appearance of evil, and so to delight in purity, and to keep myself from my iniquity that I may lead the noble spiritual life as becomes the

child of my heavenly Father; and not grieve thy Holy Spirit, O God, but be pleasing in thy blessed sight, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for the Mortification of all fleshly Lusts.*

I HAVE vowed and promised unto thee, my God, to renounce all the sinful lusts of the flesh, and am devoted as holy to the Lord; that having put on Jesus Christ, I should not make provision for the flesh to fulfil the lust thereof, but cleanse myself from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God: But though I have some delight in the law of God, after the inner man; yet I find another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, bringing me into captivity to the law of sin, which is in my members; and this I acknowledge and bewail to thee, O Lord Almighty! who alone canst set me free from the lusts that are too hard for me. O help me, Lord God of my salvation, against the power of these prevailing iniquities, and purge away all my sins, for the glory of thy name; may the time past of my life suffice to have served my own lusts and pleasures. O let not sin any longer reign in my mortal body, that I should obey it in the lusts thereof, but help me, Lord, to cut off the right hand, and to pluck out the right eye, to keep under my body, and to bring it into subjection, that I may have the mastery of my lusts, and overcome the sins that have so often overcome me. O mortify and destroy in me every rebellious motion, and every vicious inclination that exalts itself against the gospel and government of Christ Jesus; that gives satan advantage over me, and hinders my Saviour from reigning as a king supreme in my heart.

Preserve me, Lord most holy, from all those sinful pleasures that would make me fall short of the heavenly pleasures which are at thy right hand for evermore. O let me not lead a sensual life, minding the things of the flesh, as if they were the only esteemed and beloved things; but make me so spiritually minded, that I may above all things, favor and relish the things of the Spirit of God. Let not sinful flesh and lust, but thy heavenly Spirit and grace, have the predominancy in my soul, to guide and govern my heart and life; especially let the sins to which I am most strongly induced, be effectually subdued. O let me not yield myself the miserable slave of my soul-ruining lusts; but carry myself as the wise and faithful follower of my heavenly Lord and Saviour; and as thou who hast called me, art holy, so make me holy in disposition, and in all my conversation; such a lover and follower of holiness, that I may see and enjoy the Lord. O gird me with might to that spiritual conflict wherein I am engaged; not only against flesh and blood, but infernal foes, too strong for me to deal with, that, through Christ strengthening me, I may go on conquering and to conquer all that withstands thy glory, and my salvation, till satan be bruised under my feet; that nothing may ever be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, my Lord. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer before the Hearing of God's Word.*

O MOST blessed Lord, the God of all grace, who art pleased to send out thy light and thy truth among us, both to discover our sins unto us, and also to make the way of life and salvation plain before us; be thou pleased also to send the Spirit of thy Son into our hearts, that he who is the author

may also be the interpreter of thy word, to make it plain to our understanding, to set it home powerfully upon our hearts, and to render it the savor of life unto our souls. The Lord open our ears, and quicken our attention, to receive what shall be delivered from thy word with carefulness and meekness, and with all readiness and gladness, and love and delight in it, and desire to come on and grow by it; and strengthen our memories to treasure up and retain what we hear, that we may not let it slip, without making our benefit of it, and being the better for it. O gracious God! teach us to profit, and make our improvements more answerable to those means of grace, which through thy mercy we do enjoy. Let the word which shall sound in our ears also sink down into our hearts, and take root in our souls, and produce and shew the fruits of it in our lives, that we may not be forgetful hearers, but faithful doers of thy holy word. O let the immortal seed of this heavenly word, beget such principles of grace and holiness in our hearts, that may be in us as a well of water, springing up to everlasting life. Make us so obedient to thy holy precepts, that we may also inherit the glorious promises of thy word. O let our teachers be taught of God; and direct the stewards of thy mysteries to give unto every one their portion in due season; yea, give, Lord, the heavenly benediction and increase upon the planting and watering of thy servants, and make the waters of thy sanctuary healing to our souls; yea, make thy word as fire in the mouths of thy messengers, and set home the sword of the Spirit with thy own hand, making it mighty through God, to the pulling down of strong holds, and subduing all oppositions to the obedience of Christ. O let thy Spirit cause thy word to do thy great and gracious

work effectually upon all our hearts, for which we may have reason to give thee praise and glory, to all eternity. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer after Hearing of the Word.*

WE bless thee, O Lord, the living God, who holdest our souls in life, and providest for them the bread of life, that food of thy holy word, by which we live more and better than by our daily bread. It has now been delivered and received; but the blessing is in thy hands, O gracious God, to make it prosperous and successful to the gaining and saving of souls. O wilt thou be pleased to send it home to the heart, and there make it to stay and abide, till it has done thy will, and wrought thy work, to build us up in the faith of Christ, and to set us forward in all holiness of life; to make every hearer such a doer of thy word, that we may be all blessed now in our deed, and hereafter for ever blessed in the joy of our Lord.

O that all who have been convinced of their sins may also be converted to thyself, that they may not only think of the holy change, but resolve upon it, and go through with it; and let thy blessed Spirit so prevail with them, that the good motions may not go off before they have effected the work of grace in them. O make thy word mighty, through God, to plant thy grace where it is not; to increase it where it is, and to guide and govern all our hearts and lives in thy holy ways, that the word which we hear may do us good, and still bring us nearer, and make us more like to our God; that we may find our knowledge and our faith not only to come, but to grow by hearing, and may so hear that our souls may now

live the holy life of grace, and hereafter the blessed life of glory, for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Increase of Grace.*

O GOD of all grace, who both quickenest the dead, and after thou hast given life, givest the increase. Thy people go from strength to strength, growing in grace, till they appear before thee in glory; and the path of the just is as the shining light, shining more and more to the perfect day. But O Lord, how barren and unfruitful have I been among the trees of righteousness! and how little have I made my profiting and progress appear under all thy gracious means, and abundant mercies; yea, how weak and low am I still in my spiritual estate! O how small is my will and strength to that which is good! how much am I behind many of thy servants, who have not had the helps and advantages which I so long have enjoyed! and how little is it to be seen in my life what great things the Lord has done for my soul! O my God, I have not well improved the talents which thou hast put into my hands, nor answered the care and kindness of heaven, which I have so long experienced. Thou hast not been wanting to me, O good Lord! but I have been exceedingly wanting to myself, and to that duty which I owe to my God. I am ashamed that it is no better with me; that so many mercies have been spilt and lost upon me. Forgive me, O my Father, and repair thy holy image in me, who have so much dishonored thee, and disabled and spoiled myself. O help me still more and more, to put off the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and to put on the new, which, after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness. Whatever else I want,

Lord, deny me not thy grace, but increase it in me, and discover it still more and more upon me; yea, let the graces of thy Spirit, that accompany salvation, so flourish in my soul, that the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, may keep my heart and mind, through Christ Jesus.

Blessed Saviour! who camest into the world that we might have life, and have it more abundantly, of thy fulness let me receive grace sufficient for me, to make me strong in the Lord, and ready to every good work. My life, my strength and my Redeemer! leave me not under the curse of barrenness, to stand at a stay, or to decline in my spiritual estate; but as thou hast wrought all my works in me, establish, O God, that which thou hast wrought for me, and strengthen the things which remain that are ready to die, and cherish all the seeds of grace sown in my heart, that my soul may prosper and increase with the increase of God, as a watered garden, and as a spring whose waters fail not; growing in knowledge and grace, and abounding in all those fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God, that so I may be fully satisfied of the truth of thy grace in me, by its growing upon me. O my Lord! Carry on with power the work of faith and sanctification in my soul, that my sinful corruption, every day, like the house of Saul, may grow weaker and weaker; and thy grace in me, every day, like the house of David, may grow stronger and stronger, till from groaning under sin, the body of this death, I come to triumph over all that opposes and hinders the progress of my spiritual life: and as thou art pleased to afford me the means of grace, O grant me the increase of thy grace, to answer the end of all those means, that in the use of them, I may be made still wiser and holier, and bet-

ter, and fitter for thy blessed acceptance in Jesus Christ, my only Saviour. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for quickening Grace.*

I Acknowledge and bewail before thee, O Lord, the living and all-seeing God, my sinful dulness and indisposedness for the duties of thy holy service: when I should delight in the law of God, and serve thee with gladness, and make it my meat and drink to do the will of my heavenly Father; O how cold and listless am I to do that which is the best for me, and which does most nearly and eternally concern me. I am alive to the world, and very apt to be transported with sensual objects; but how heavy and dead to those offices of attendance on my Lord, which are the glory and joy of all the worthies of heaven. My soul cleaves to the dust of the earth; quicken me, O Lord, according to thy word, according to the word of thy precept, which does command us to be spiritually minded; to abound in the work, and not to be slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord: and quicken me, O my Lord, according to the word of thy promise, that sin shall not have dominion over thy servants; that thou wilt perfect what concerns thy people. Dear Lord! be thou pleased to perfect that which concerns my soul, and engage the love of my heart to thy service; and make me to delight to do thy will, O God, and with an enlarged heart to run the way of thy commands. O help me to put forth myself with vigor and activity in thy holy ways, and to apply myself to the performance of thy blessed pleasure, not only because I must, but because it is the desire of my soul, and the joy of my heart to be so taken up that nothing in the world may give me so

much cheerfulness and sweet satisfaction, as to approve my heart unto my God, and my ways pleasing in thy sight, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for Ability to acquit ourselves as we ought, in our several Places and Relations.*

O LORD our Lord! thy word enjoins us, wherein we are called therein to abide with God. And this is the duty which we are especially to take care of, next to the care of our souls, to study to be quiet, and to do our own business, that we may provide for ourselves, and for our dependents, and render to all their dues, and not be burthensome, but helpful to others. O thou that givest skill and ability for the performance of those offices to which thou callest, teach and enable me, I beseech thee, for the work of my place, and all the duties of my calling. Good Lord! pardon all my past unfaithfulness and negligence herein, and direct and bless, and accept, and assist me in discharging it for the time to come. O make me so contented with what I get by honest means, that I may never offer to go beyond, or defraud my neighbors in any matter, but be punctually just in all my dealings, and conscientiously perform my duty in all my relations, carrying myself as I ought towards every one with whom I am any way concerned in the world, whether superior, equal, or inferior, offensive to none; but, as I have power and opportunity for it, good and useful to all. O let me not walk disorderly, nor be guilty of the impertinence and mischief, to be negligent at home and to busy myself abroad in other men's matters; but may I keep my own station, and with quietness work and eat my own bread; and provide things honest in the sight of all men fol-

lowing after that which is lovely and of good report, and herein exercising myself to have always the conscience void of offence towards God, and towards men; yea, whatever any may justly expect from me, help me, O my God, to discharge it faithfully and acceptably; and command a blessing, Lord, upon all my honest labors and endeavors, and make them successful to promote my own and others real and eternal good, and to glorify thy blessed name, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer for Grace to serve the Lord with Gladness.*

O MY God! thou art a Lord that hast pleasure in the prosperity of thy servants; and thy servants have all the greatest reason to be most highly pleased in the performance of thy service. It is good for me to draw nigh to God, in whose presence is fulness of joy; and the hearts of them may rejoice that seek the Lord; for thou dost not employ us but to oblige us; not for any advantage to thyself, but only for our own greatest good every way, that it may go well with us, both here and for ever. O my Lord, I am full of trouble and confusion, that ever I should be so listless as I have been to thy blessed work, and so lifeless in it, and soon weary of it, to the dishonor of thy name, and the reproach of thy service, as if I had a hard master, and a doleful work. O that I should bear as a burden that which should be the solace of my life, and the rejoicing of my heart. Forgive me, I beseech thee, good Lord, all this which I bewail before thee, and heal the indisposedness in me, which makes thy service a weariness to me; and so renew my spirit and draw and join my heart to thy

blessed self, that I may not serve thee as out of compulsion, but inclination; not as forcing myself but loving thy work. O rid my mind of that tormenting dread which makes me uneasy in the service of my Lord: and give me a heavenly heart set upon the heavenly business, and such a mighty love as may sweeten all my obedience, that I may not account it grievous or tedious, but my soul's satisfaction and exceeding joy. O let me not serve thee, my God, with the spirit of bondage as a slave, but with the cheerfulness and gladness of an ingenuous child, sitting down with delight under thy shadow, delighting myself in the Lord, and so be pleased with thy work, that my services may also be pleasing in thy sight through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for Skill to carry ourselves aright among all with whom we are concerned in the World.*

O LORD my God! I desire to humble myself in thy sight for all the folly, indecency, and disorder of my conduct; that I have so frequently failed in it, and so foully miscarried and lost myself in my intercourse with my neighbors, that my example has too often tended more to the hardening, than to the converting of sinners: and that I have lain as a stumbling-block, and rock of offence in the way of my brethren, not only prone to be tempted with evil, and to be overcome myself, but also becoming a temptation and snare to others, so as to draw them to sin, or to embolden them in it. Though thou hast shewed me what is good, and made me to know better things, and laid the greatest engagement upon me to be faithful in thy covenant, yet, O how apt have I been to lose my relish of the

things of God among sinful men! how apt to be carried into folly with the stream of the company, to fall into base compliance, and consent with sinners, and follow the multitude to do evil.

O my God! give me repentance and pardon for all my own sins, and for all the guilt which I have contracted in being accessary to the sins of others; and so fortify me with thy grace, that I may not be in such danger to be awed or seduced out of my religion; that I may never be ashamed of Christ before men, but boldly appear for thy truth and holiness, even in the face of an evil and faithless generation. O teach me to walk in wisdom towards them that are without, and in kindness towards them that are within; and without offence, in prudence and usefulness, to all. Make me wise in the choice, and in the use of my company, that they may not be to me, nor I to them, an occasion of falling; but that we may be mutual helps and edifiers of one another, and examples of all that is good, and imitable and praise-worthy. O great Lord! make me so faithful to thee, and to my own conscience, that no conversation with any in the world may discompose the religious frame of my soul, that I may not be startled at any bold censure of thy ways and wisdom, nor ever draw back from thee, for the contradiction of sinners; but cease from man whose breath is in his nostrils; for wherein is he to be accounted of. O turn my fear of their faces into love of their immortal souls, who are my fellow-servants in thy work, and fellow-travellers to our long home; and should be faithful, and would be happy. And where I cannot promote their duty and felicity, yet grant, O Lord, that they may not hinder mine; that where I am not edified, I may not be corrupted by them.

O my God! may thy presence ever sway me more than the presence of any men, that I may count it a small thing to be judged of them, and not be determined by their way or humor, but regard my own conscience more than other's opinion, and do all in the sight of God, heartily as to the Lord; not in so much care to ingratiate myself with any else as to please the great Judge of all. Yet keep thy servant, O Lord, from giving scandal and offence to any; that I may not by pride and passion, by vanity and indiscretion, or by morosity and sour opposition, disparage my profession, nor make the way of truth through me to be evil spoken of; but help me, my God and Guide, to walk circumspectly, and to speak and act with due consideration of all times and places, persons and circumstances, that I may wisely behave myself, and guide my affairs with discretion, and so go in and out among men upon earth, as to preserve my integrity in thy sight, and have my conversation in heaven, and still enjoy that most blessed friendship with thee, my heavenly Father, and thy dear Son, my only Saviour. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Grace to use our Speech aright.*

O LORD our gracious God! who hast given us reason and speech to express our minds to one another, and to converse comfortably together: What great cause have we to praise thee, that we are so fearfully and wonderfully made! and our tongues that are our glory, and most of all so, when with them we set forth thy glory; but alas! that I have so much cause to humble myself for all the abuses of my tongue; and that I have so many ways perverted the happy privilege of speaking,

either holding my peace where I should have spoken to thy honor and the good of my neighbor: dumb and tongue-tied to thy praise and to pious conference with thy servants; or else pouring out words to dishonor thy name, to wrong my own soul, and to offend and injure others. Forgive me, O merciful God, I beseech thee, all my sinful silence, my vain and idle words, and my evil corrupt communication, and help me so to speak, as to express thy grace in my heart, and to minister the same to my hearers. Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips, that nothing thence may proceed but what shall be, some way or other, good for the use of edifying. Help me to keep my mouth as with a bridle, when I am provoked to speak unadvisedly with my lips; and let no profane or filthy speeches proceed out of my mouth, nor any thing be said by me, that ought not to be named among Christians.

O Lord, open thou my lips, that my mouth may shew forth thy praise; make me forward to speak for thee, and for the service of thy truth, and the glory of thy name; but as slow to speak evil, and to defile myself, or to hurt my neighbor. Give me, Lord, a considerate mind to weigh what is fit to be said; and make me wise and serious, sober and modest, pious and charitable in what I speak, that it may be without offence, but not without some profit to the partners in my conversation. O fill my heart with such grace, that out of the good treasure I may be ever and anon producing somewhat to oblige the company, and to advance thy glory; and put such thoughts into my mind, and such words into my mouth, that my tongue may be as the pen of a ready writer, to utter things seasonable, and acceptable, for the benefit of my associates; and that I may

never abuse the liberty of speech into the licentiousness of vain or evil-speaking; but turn and employ it to the wise and good and worthy ends for which it was given; and speak of and for thy testimonies, even before the greatest, without being ashamed.

O Lord! restrain the blasphemous and brutish generation, that set their mouths against heaven, and, out of those open sepulchres, belch forth impieties and impurities, to dishonor him that made them; to grieve the souls of thy servants, and to spread the contagion of their ungodliness. O fill their face with shame for what they have done and their hearts with dread, to stop them from proceeding so any farther. Confound the viperous brood that hiss and vent their venom against thy holy ways, and give them other tongues, that they may use thy gifts to better purpose. O let the lying lips be put to silence, that speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous. And let such as fear thee, and think upon thy name, speak often to one another; so as to promote and set forward their common edification and consolation, and eternal salvation, through thy goodness to them in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *The convinced Sinner's Prayer.*

HEARKEN to the voice of my cry, my King and my God; for unto thee will I pray; but wherewithal shall I appear before the Lord, and bow myself to the most high God, whose holy laws I have broken, and whose just displeasure I have incurred! I acknowledge my transgression, O Lord, and my sin is ever before me. My iniquities are gone over my head, as a sore burden; they are too heavy for me to bear. When thou with rebukes dost chasten man for iniquity, thou makest

his beauty to consume away like a moth. My sin now has found me out; and that which once I thought too little to be repented, seems now too great to be pardoned. I flattered myself in my own eyes, till my iniquity is found to be hateful. I thought I was rich and increased with goods, and had need of nothing; but now I find that I am miserable, and wretched, and poor, and blind, and naked; so that there is nothing but disorder and ruin in my soul. I have undone myself; but to work my own recovery I have no sufficiency. O how wicked have I been to allow myself in the way and mind which is enmity against God! How ignorant, yet how confident! How vile, yet how arrogant! In what need of mercy, yet how unmerciful; how sinful, yet how impenitent: how bold in the sins where conscience reproved me, but how cold in the cause where thy Spirit encouraged me! Oh the spoils, and ruins, and desolations which my sins have made in my soul; how have they darkened my mind, perverted my will, defaced my affections, disordered my passions, hardened my heart, and seduced it away from my most good and ever blessed God, to cleave unto the things displeasing in thy sight, and destructive to my soul!

There is no hiding any thing from thee, the infinite God, who fillest heaven and earth.—What shall I say unto thee, Lord? I scarce know how to say bad enough of myself. O woe is me that I have done so foolishly and wickedly! whither shall I betake myself when against thee, O Lord, I have so sinned, and done such evil in thy sight! Thou art the offended Majesty, out of whose reach I cannot escape, and under whose judgments I can never be able to bear up. A guilty consciousness should make me afraid to come unto thee; yet I

know there is nothing but certain destruction to keep away from thee; and though there is no peace to the wicked so continuing; yet if the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and return to the Lord, thy promise then, O God, is to have mercy upon him, and abundantly to pardon. I have none to seek to for remedy against my sins, but unto the just and holy God, against whom I have grievously sinned; and how shall I stand in thy sight, O Lord, who hatest and condemnest the works of darkness, and the workers of iniquity, whose wrath against sin burns as deep as hell, and as long as eternity.

I submit, great Lord, to thy offended Majesty! and I have no hopeful prospect, looking any way, but to thy Almighty power, thy super-abounding grace, and thy ever-enduring mercy, who at the lowest can raise, and at the worst art able to relieve us. Nothing is too hard for thee to effect; the most wretched case is not past thy cure; though our sins be as scarlet, thou canst make them as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, thou canst make them as wool; yea, thou hast found a ransom, and laid help upon one that is mighty, and able to save to the uttermost all that come to God through him. If I had not sinned, I had no need of such a Redeemer; but they were sinners whom he came to save; and therefore, to the Lord Jesus I look with the desire of my soul to find a healing for this sinful soul of mine, in the precious blood of his cross. O good God! when my sins cry to thee for vengeance, be thou pleased to hear his blood and merits pleading and interceding for my soul; and speaking better things in my behalf than I am able to do for myself, in all my prayers.

Behold, O merciful Lord, a miserable object on

which to glorify thy power and compassion, thy wonderful work, and great salvation! O look upon me in my blood, and bid me live. Speak death to my sins, that my soul may live, and for ever bless thy name. Turn away thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon my sin, for it is great; too great for any but the God of infinite goodness and love ever to discharge me from. O magnify thy all-sufficiency to help me out in this my woful misery. Make the happy experiment upon my poor soul, how great things worthy of God thou canst do; that where sin hath abounded thy grace may much more abound. Return, O Lord, deliver my soul; O save me for thy mercy's sake: save me from the guilt and filth, from the power and curse of all my sins. And thou, Lord, that knowest how to deliver, make me some way to escape out of the desperate straits and perplexities into which my sins have cast me, that my iniquities may not hang upon me to be my ruin; but that they be taken away and forgiven, and washed out with the blood of Jesus Christ. O turn thou me, Lord God of my salvation, and I shall be turned from my sins, and from this present evil world, more effectually and fully to thy blessed self. O give me such conviction as may end in sound conversion; and let me experience in myself that grace of God which bringeth salvation. I want thy grace, O Lord; and want it I shall for ever, if thou be not pleased to look graciously upon me in my blessed Redeemer. But thou wilt never have the less, how much soever thou bestowest: and thou canst not bestow thy grace upon any one that more needs it. O God of all grace, that keepest mercy for thousands, hast thou not a blessing for me? a spiritual heavenly blessing! For thy dear Son, my

only Saviour's sake, let me find such grace in thy sight. O get thee everlasting glory in so obliging the unworthy: and whatever I want, O deny me not that saving grace which, though a precious treasure that I am bold to ask, yet it is not too great or good for the God infinitely great and good to give. O do that work of thy grace thoroughly upon my heart, for which I may have cause to glorify thy name for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for the troubled Soul.*

O GOD of the spirits of all flesh! thou knowest the grievous torment of a wounded spirit; and hast promised not to break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax: Have pity, Lord of love, upon thy disconsolate servant, whose spirit is sore broken, and overwhelmed within him; and relieve and heal and comfort him with thy peace, and some tokens for good, that thou hast thoughts of love and everlasting mercy towards him. O blessed Jesus, who callest to thee the laboring and heavy laden sinners, with the promise of rest for their souls, give some glimpse of thy mercy and faith in thy merits and promises to this poor troubled soul, cast down with the sense of his sin, and the fear of thy wrath. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. O hide not thy face from thy servant, nor cast him away from thy presence in displeasure; but speak peace to him, and cause thy grace to shine upon him.

O God of consolation, be thou pleased to cheer him up with the hope and belief of thy pardon and acceptance, and give him a comfortable affiance in thee, and the witness of thy Spirit with his spirit, to persuade him that he is the child of God, whom

thou lovest though thou chastenest, and with thy terrors preparest him for thy comforts. O that he may see love in the rod, and take it as the chastisement of a kind Father, and not the vengeance of an incensed Judge; and that he may find this humiliation working for his everlasting consolation; seeing they that mourn are blessed, and shall be comforted, and such as sow in tears shall reap in joy. O that his sorrow may be the godly sorrow which works repentance, not to be repented of: that it may have such a happy issue, and end in unspeakable glorious joy; but let him not sorrow as one without hope, seeing the trouble for sin is a preservative from the damnation of hell; and such as are now in glory went this very way to heaven, working out their salvation with fear and trembling; and so feeling the burden of sin here, that they might not lie under it for ever. Therefore, though he walk in darkness. and has no light, yet let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.

O Lord! rebuke him not in thy anger, neither chasten him in thy sore displeasure; but return and set him free from the heavy pressure now upon him. Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver him; O Lord make haste to help him. Quicken him for thy name's sake: and for thy righteousness sake bring his soul out of trouble. Thou hast shewed him great and sore troubles; be thou pleased to revive him again, that he may rejoice in thee. Shew him thy mercy, O Lord and grant him thy salvation. O refresh him early with such thy mercy, that he may be glad, and rejoice in thee all his days, when thou hast considered his trouble as thou hast known his soul in adversity, that thy name may have the glory, and his soul the comfort of thy seasonable relief, and thy sweet abundant mercies in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for the Enjoyment of God's gracious Presence and divine Communion.*

O THOU infinite Majesty of heaven and earth, who canst no where be absent, but filleth all things! no place is so desolate as to be without thee: no men so bad, but they live and move, and have their being in thee. Yea, the very devils are not out of thy reach, but aware of thy presence, though to their cost; and even in hell thou art there; but to thy people and saints, that are of the household of God, and bear thy image, and know thy voice, and how to prize thy love, to them thou art pleased to open and communicate thyself in an especial favorable manner, and to go in and out among them as the children of thy family; and, in the most wonderful condescension, to treat them as thy friends and favorites; to revive their spirits and to cheer their hearts; and thou hast promised that thou wilt not leave them comfortless; but come to them and dwell in them, and be their God, and let them be thy people. Thus thou dost manifest thyself to them, though not to the world; for the ungodly are far from thee, and live without God in the world. Our sins, alas! do make the cursed wall of separation between thee and our souls; and for my sins, O how justly mightest thou, Lord, forsake me, and cast me off in displeasure, and hide away thy face, and keep at a distance from me, and abandon me over to my wretched self, as an enemy whom thou canst not love, but disdainest to look upon.

But though my ill deserts at thy hands may well provoke such thy indignation against me, yet let my forlorn estate without thee move thy compassion towards me; and where thou canst not take pleasure

in me, yet, Father of mercies, have pity on me, and cast me not away from thy presence, nor abhor, nor forsake me for thy name's sake, and for the sake of that mercy which has moved thee to do so much already for me, and so far to discover thy grace upon me. O come to me, and make me such as that thou mayest abide with me, and rejoice over me to do me good. My soul is as a desolate wilderness, a confused chaos; yea, even the image of hell without thee, my God, while thou art not with my spirit, I live wickedly to thy dishonor and I know not how soon I shall die wretchedly, to my own eternal undoing, if thou cast not an eye of pity upon me; if thou make not haste in mercy to help me. O Emanuel, God with us! for thy mercy's sake, for thy promise sake, for my misery's sake, see me lying afar off, and bring me nigh through the blood of thy cross. O bring me out of my strangeness to thee, and my distance from thee, that I may be safe under the shadow of thy wings, and happy in the solace of thy love.

If thou reject me, O my God, what company or comforts of the world can then avail, or make any recompence for the loss of thy favor, in which is life, and without which I am dead while I live, and shall be for ever accursed when I die. But if thou be with me, and lift up the light of thy countenance upon me, I shall have heavenly fellowship, and overflow with unspeakable joy. Even in the absence of all other friends and comforts I shall not need, I shall not desire them, when I can go to God my exceeding joy, and be taken up with my blessed Lord, in whose presence is fulness of joy. O blessed are they whom thou chusest and causest to approach so nigh unto thee, O Lord, and who are so highly favored by thee, whose gracious presence can make the

poorest cottage better than the stateliest palace, and fill the hearts of thy servants with such divine delights, to which the greatest men of the world are strangers. O what manner of love is this, that the great God of heaven should vouchsafe to visit and reside with poor mortals on earth! And O that my soul were fit to be the habitation of the King of glory. But, Lord, how unworthy am I that thou shouldest come under my roof. O blessed Jesus, be thou pleased to regard my undone state without thee, and my restless longings after thee, and be pleased to come unto me, dear Lord, not because I deserve, but because I need thee; not for my merits, but for thy own, who art worthy; for whose sake I should be so favored from on high. My Lord and my God, whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee. O be not as a stranger to the soul in which thou hast planted an inclination to serve thee, but bless and honor me with that divine fellowship of which thou hast made me not only capable, but desirous; and give me the satisfaction to find what thou hast given me a heart to seek; yea, give me grace, O my Lord, to go on seeking till I find thee whom my soul desires above all to love; let me endure any thing easier than thy absence and displeasure, and desire nothing so much as thy presence and favor.

And be not thou far from me, O my God, but let me experience thy gracious presence with me, and the goodness of the Lord passing before me. Lord Jesus, be with my spirit, and dwell in my heart by faith; as thou hast promised to be with thy lovers and followers always, even to the end of the world; Lord, for thy mercy's sake, blot out my sins; and then, for thy promise sake, come and visit my soul. O make me such as I should be to-

wards thee, and such as thou mayest take pleasure in me; and then shew thyself unto me with the favor which thou bearest to thy people; and may thy gracious abode with me now on earth, be to me a comfortable earnest of my glorious abode with thee for ever in thy heavenly kingdom. Be with me, O my Saviour, every where, and at all times, in health and in sickness, in prosperity and trouble, in all estates, and in all events and circumstances of my life; to sanctify and sweeten to me whatever befals me; and never leave nor forsake me in my present pilgrimage here, till thou hast brought me safe through all trials and dangers to be ever with the Lord; there to live in thy sight, and love, and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for heavenly Comforts.*

O MOST blessed Lord, the God of all consolation, who comfortest those that are cast down, and givest such peace and joy, as the world can neither give nor take away; I confess myself unworthy of so much as any good look from thy gracious eye, or any glimpse of the light of thy countenance, to be lifted up upon my soul. I deserve to be in heaviness for my sins, to groan under the oppressive burden, even all my days, and at last to go down in sorrow to my grave; but because thou knowest, Lord, our danger to surfeit on the pleasures of sin, when thou withholdest heavenly consolation from us; and that the joy of the Lord is our strength, to carry us on with fidelity and alacrity in the way of our duty: I beseech thee, O Lord of love, to speak peace to my conscience, and say to my soul, that thou art my salvation: To fortify me against the stolen sinful pleasures, and to engage my heart

to a faithfulness in the covenant of my God; I beg of thee some tokens of thy love to me, some discoveries of the light of thy countenance upon me, some experience of the joy of thy blessed Spirit in me; my soul thirsteth for thee, my God, to see thy power, and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord, for ever? How long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? O cause thy face to shine upon me, let my heart rejoice in thee, because I have trusted in thy holy name. Let my mouth be filled with thy praise, and with thy honor all the day long; and let my soul be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, when I praise thee with joyful lips.

Whether I come in or be left out, in the distribution of thy common favors, which thou scatterest with an indifferent hand amongst all sorts of men, O remember me Lord, with the favor which thou bearest to thy people, and visit me with thy salvation; that I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, and glory with thy inheritance. O that I may experience the joy and peace in believing, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and count thy love better than wine, and prefer it above my chiefest joy. Seeing the work of righteousness is peace, and the effect of it quietness and assurance for ever! O make me the true and faithful subject of that spiritual kingdom, which is righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. O let me so taste that the Lord is gracious, and give me such feelings of thy Spirit's operation in me; such witness with my spirit, such hopes of thy glory, and such token for my good, to persuade and assure my heart of thy everlasting love and favor in Christ Jesus, to my soul, that my soul

may bless thee, O Lord, and all that is within me, may praise thy holy name! And that the satisfaction and delight which I take in thy service, may also invite in others to give up themselves to it; and so thou, the blessed Giver of all joy and comfort, mayest by us all be glorified, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer and Praise for a converted Sinner.*

I WILL praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify thy name for evermore; so great is thy mercy towards me, that thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell. My lips therefore shall greatly rejoice, when I sing to thee, and my soul which thou hast redeemed, shall make her boast in the Lord. For I was darkness, but now am light in the Lord; I was dead, and am alive again; I was lost and am found. When no eye pitied me, and when I had not a heart to pity myself, then didst thou, Lord of love, look upon me in my blood, and bid me live. O sinful wretch! that I should be taken, and others left! I stand amazed at thy kindness and love, O God my Saviour, for all the great things which thou hast done for my soul, more than if thou hadst given me wealth, and strength, and wit, and beauty, to the admiration of all; more than if thou hadst set me up with the princes of the earth, and blessed me with all the fulness and glory of the world; for O how soon do all these things pass away and perish! but the word of God, by which I am born again, lives and abides for ever. The grace of God, which brings salvation, appearing to me, is in me a well of water springing up to everlasting life. O God of all grace! who hadst such thoughts of mercy towards me, even when I was in enmity against thee, and

did nothing but forget and provoke thee, thou wilt not despise the day of small things, nor cast me off for the failings of my services, after thou hast wrought in me some good things towards thee, and brought my soul from the gates of hell, within prospect of the heavenly glory.

O what great and sore troubles hast thou shewed me! yet didst thou turn again and refresh me, and comfort me on every side with the most reviving and richest of all mercy. I must for ever have perished, if thou Lord, hadst not brought me from my deadness in trespasses and sins, to newness of life; and better I never had been born, if I had not been newborn. O blessed change! and mighty work, worthy of God! O the riches of grace, and the wonders of divine power and love! What shall I render to the Lord for these greatest of all benefits, which I am not able so much as worthily to express? I can never enough admire and bless thee, O my God, for thy love to my soul, which thou hast brought to see the joy of thy salvation; how thou didst bear with me in all my dulness and perverseness, and what work thou hadst to bring me into any good hopeful way for the heavenly bliss. Yet wouldst thou not suffer me to undo myself, but gavest me checks in the way of my sins, till thou hadst overcome my heart by thy almighty grace, and brought me home to thy blessed self; and from the slavish dread of thy wrath, to the sweet apprehensions of thy love.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. My God and Saviour, I was hopeless and helpless, and at the lowest thou hast remembered me; at the worst thou hast holpen and comforted me; the fear of hell was upon me, and thou hast set me above that killing dread, to

rejoice in hope of thy glory. I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. O who am I, unworthy wretch, that I should be made so happily to differ from any others, and from my former self! O what have I done to invite such saving mercy to shine upon me, when so great a part of the world is still in darkness, and in the shadow of death. I am unworthy, Lord, I am unworthy, but thou art the God infinitely good, and abundant in mercy.

O blessed God of my salvation, accept the oblation of myself, and all my services, together with my thanks and praise, for this thy love in Christ Jesus, wherewith thou hast so eternally obliged me to thyself. To give all glory to thee, O what abundant cause hast thou given me, when as I have no good thing on earth, but of thy bounty, and am out of hell, only through thy mercy. And O that my life may be spent in thy dearest love, and in thy faithful service, ever delighting to do thy will, O my God! as I am the receiver of such mercies, so make me the preacher of thy praises. Let me bless thee, Lord, at all times, and have thy praise continually in my mouth, even while I have my being. Accept, O gracious Father, and continue me for thy own, and make me still fitter for thy blessed acceptance in Jesus Christ my Saviour. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer after a Relapse into Sin.*

O MY God! I am filled with confusion to lift up my face unto thee, from whom I have so foolishly and wickedly departed; and against whom I have so greatly and provokingly sinned. I am ashamed to confess unto thee what, alas! I have

not been afraid to commit against thee. Thou, Lord, hast made me to know better, but I have held the truth in unrighteousness, and therefore deserve to be beaten with many stripes, for sinning so against my own knowledge. Yea, how oft have I been taught, as with briars and thorns, what an evil and bitter thing it is to trespass upon the Lord, as I have done! and yet, worse than a child or brute, I have run upon the offences for which I knew I must sadly repent, or do worse; nor have I only resisted the clearest light and conviction, but trampled on the richest grace and love; therefore I am inexcusable, O righteous Lord! and have nothing to say in my own defence: no, the guilt which I have contracted, stops my mouth. O into what a depth am I fallen! and is there any hope now for one that has so wilfully spoiled himself as I have done? The pardon and grace which I am necessitated to come begging at thy hands, O my Lord, how much greater are they than I have any reason to expect! yet not greater than thou, the God of all grace, canst give; nor greater than thou hast also promised to bestow even upon the greatest sinners, repenting and returning to thee. It is thy reviving word to such, that thou wilt have mercy upon them, and abundantly pardon; and though men may be false, and their offers but ensnarements, yet faithfulness itself can never deceive us.

Seeing thou hast made such a way for our redemption, O God of all grace, to heal and save our poor lost souls, by the stripes and death of thy own beloved Son; O that the blessed Saviour whom thou hast sent into the world, may exercise his power and pity, and great salvation upon me, in this my woful condition! and make me some way to escape, that I may not be thus taken captive by the tempter at

his will. Good God! there is nothing in me but misery to move thy mercy. O fetch arguments of pity from thy own infinite goodness, and thy tender inclinations, to compassionate and relieve poor sinners returning to thee, after they have foolishly misbehaved themselves and wickedly rebelled against thee. Mercy, O Lord, mercy I beg of thee, for mercy's sake: O let thy compassion spare me, and withhold thy justice from proceeding against me. I have sinned as a silly wicked man; O Lord, pardon and heal me, as an Almighty and most merciful God. I have gone astray like a lost sheep! O seek thy servant, Lord, and bring me back to the Shepherd and Bishop of my soul. Wilt thou take this sad opportunity to advance thy everlasting glory, in pitying the worst of fools, in saving the chief of sinners? For thy name sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity, which is so exceedingly great. O absolve me from the guilt, deliver me from the power, cleanse me from the pollution, and save me from the punishment of this, and all my offences, that expose me to thy wrath, and indispose me for thy service; estranging me from thee, and hindering the freedom of my love and delight in thee.

Lord of love, the God of my mercy, heal my backslidings, that I may not again return to folly. O let me vow and pay to the Lord my God; and so go forth in thy strength, that thou mayest confirm my resolution, and enable me to perform what I have promised. O thou compassionate succorer of the tempted, lead me not into temptation, but, by thy grace and mighty aid, secure me so to thyself, that I may not only in this day of confusion and anguish, when my wounds are fresh bleeding upon me, but in all times to come, humble my soul, and hate my sin, and take heed to my ways; and with

purpose of heart cleave to the Lord, and keep in thy holy fear and love to my life's end. *Amen.*

*Another humbling Office under any foul Fall.*

O JUST and holy God, what shall I say unto thee, and how shall I shew my face before thee, after I have so highly affronted thy glorious Majesty, and violated thy righteous commands, striking more wounds still into my wofully-distressed conscience. O that I should have the sad occasion to come upon the same account, to confess and bewail the sin which I have so often confessed and bewailed. Holy Lord, I am ashamed that I have this need to beg; and afraid lest my sins have so provoked thee, that I should beg in vain; for sin, when it is finished, brings forth death; it destroys our grace, and peace, and comfort now; and, without the interposition of infinite mercy, it will destroy soul and body eternally. And when I am under the desert of that condemnation, O what mercy from the Father of mercies, do I experience, that it is not executed upon me! What patience, but that of the long-suffering God, would ever bear with such as provoke him every day, when he could so easily break out in fury, and avenge him of his adversary! O how justly mightest thou, Lord, refuse to hear me now crying to thee in the anguish of my soul; who have so often refused to hear thee calling upon me by the motions of thy holy Spirit! O the spoils, and havoc, and desolation, which my sin has made in my soul! So many aggravations of this sin, do make it beyond measure sinful till I am become vile in my own eyes. And such frequent falls do ruin my hopes, and render my case so extremely hazardous, that I am ready to fear, lest mercy should quite have done

with me, and abandon me over to my wretched self, and leave me to be filthy still, and to lie and perish in my sins, because I have revolted still more and more.

I abhor myself and humble my soul here in the dust before thee, O Lord! and because I have made so bold with thy laws, I am sorely afraid of thy judgments. My sins have taken such hold of me, that my heart fails me; yet, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean, and make me whole. I come therefore in hope to beg the so often forfeited life of my poor soul, at thy blessed hands; for thou that hast charged us to forgive an offending brother seventy times seven, (even as oft as he repents) wilt not thyself be harder to thy offenders, when they become penitent seekers of thy mercy: no, though we so often forget our duty, thou canst never forget thy mercy. A woman may sooner forget her compassions to the fruit of her womb, than the Lord of love will forget his kindness to his children. And to the mercy that has hitherto so wonderfully endured me, O my Lord, I seek and beg now this addition, even the further prolonging yet of thy patience towards me.

In the day of trouble I will call upon thee, for thou wilt answer me. I believe, Lord, thy power and thy readiness to relieve poor sinners repairing to thee; and to that end didst thou, O blessed Saviour, come into the world, and shed thy precious blood, to atone for our guilt, and to cleanse us from all our sins. O that I, who have the greatest need, may feel the happy benefit! that where sin has abounded, thy grace may much more abound. Look upon me, O Lord, as thou didst on thy offending disciple, to melt my heart into a kindly relenting, and penitent concernment for this great evil; that I may look up-

on him whom my sins have pierced and mourn; and be in bitterness for the grievous offences that I have committed against the Lord of love, and the God of all my mercies. What is past I cannot recall; but thou, my Jesus, canst remit it, and give me grace to repent it. O give me such true repentance for it, that thou mayest also give me full pardon of it and in thy great mercy, be reconciled to me, and at peace with me.

And grant, O gracious Lord, that the custom of sinning may not so dull my sense of it, that I should commit these great sins with little remorse. Nor let it so increase my sinful inclinations, that I should be the servant of corruption, giving harbor and encouragement to the cursed things, and taking part with the enemies of my own house, to be the worst tempter to myself. Be thou, O Lord, my strong tower of defence against them, and enable me to go on conquering and to conquer, till in the name of the Lord, I have destroyed them. So often have I fallen by their hands, that I fear lest one day I should so fall by them, as never to rise again; but thou, my Strength and my Redeemer, art stronger than the strong one, and able yet to secure me. O blessed Keeper of Israel, keep back thy servant from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me; that I may be upright and innocent from the great transgression; nor punish my past sins, by giving me up to commit sin with greediness, but subdue my iniquities that prevail against me; and pluck me out of the mire and the snare, for thy mercy's sake. O that the same mercy, which has hitherto held the hand of justice from cutting me off, and so often spared me, may also forgive and renew me, and so strengthen all the good things of thy grace in my soul, that I may be full of power to

defend thy rights against these usurpations of the sinful part in me; and may be found so faithful until death, that thou mayest give me the crown of life; not for any worth in me, but for the worthiness of thy Son, and for the sake of thy own tender mercies in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *Thanksgiving for a Recovery, after a fall into Sin.*

I BLESS thy name, O Lord my God, infinitely good, that thou hast kept me alive to this day; and after all my ill carriage towards thee, and all my presumptuous boldness with thee, and manifold rebellions against thee, thou hast not given me over as a prey to the deadly enemy of my soul, that seeks to devour me, but dost yet leave me a reserve of hope, and it is not in vain to seek thy face, and to wait for mercy at thy hands. O my God, how wonderful is thy patience in my eyes, that I have not perished in such sins. It is through thy grace that I come to pause and consider of my sin and danger, and the way to escape. And therefore hast thou so spared me in all my sins, that, by helping in such a desperate case, thou mighest shew forth all the wonders of thy grace.

O Father of mercies, hast thou yet a blessing for such a rebellious wretch? And may I yet make bold to look for thy blessed favor, after I have done thee such infinite wrong! O the inconceivable depths of thy goodness that are in thy gracious nature, to use me as a dear friend, who have misbehaved myself towards thee, as the worst enemy, and to leave me hopes of pardon and heaven; when it is mercy far above all my deserts, but to spare my life upon earth, and to keep my soul out of hell. And

hast thou, Lord, kept me to this day, and brought me through so many temptations and dangers in my life, to be avenged on me, and to destroy me at last? O my gracious Father, the God of all my mercies, I cannot think thou so delightest in my death. I have wronged thee too much with all my sins already; and let me not add this now to the heavy score, to dishonor such tried mercy, with the base distrust, and despair of its continuance. O no; I believe, Lord, help my unbelief, that thou art not willing I should perish, but by repentance come to salvation: and O what a gracious God have I, to deal so bountifully with me: and what a stony heart, to be no more affected with the richest mercy! O what a life of sins, and what a life of mercies has been mine! with amazement I reflect on both, to think how bad I have been towards thee, my Lord, and yet how good thou hast been to my soul. O that such wonders of love may have the prevailing force upon my heart, to turn it against the sins that have engaged me in such rebellion against the Lord, and to bring me nearer to my God than ever I have been; and to make me more abound in thy love, and more delight in thy service than ever I have done. O that I may never commit sins so great against the God so infinitely good, but be warned by these escapes, and won by these mercies, to be more watchful and faithful in keeping myself from my iniquity; continually fearing to offend, and endeavoring to please thee, my God, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *Thanksgiving for spiritual Victory.*

O LORD God, almighty and most merciful, who givest strength and power to thy people; and with the temptation makest them a way to es-

cape! by thy grace I am what I am, and thy grace bestowed on me was not in vain, but helped me in time of need, to withstand and overcome the temptation wherewith I was assaulted. My own strength, Lord, thou knowest is but weakness, and my heart not to be trusted. But thy hand held me up, and by the help of my God, I have preserved my integrity, and so resisted the devil, as to make him flee from me. I find, O Lord, by sweet and joyful experience, thy ways to be ways of pleasantness and paths of peace; and that in observing thy laws there is great reward. O how much are the heavenly raptures of victory to be preferred before the filthy pleasures of sin! shame and dread, and sorrow, are the cursed consequences of yielding to the tempter; but glorying, and confidence, and the peace of God, and joy in the Holy Ghost, are the conqueror's portion.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall be joyful in my God, who has lifted me up, and not suffered my foes to triumph over me. They have thrust sore at me that I might fall, but the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and my song, and is become my salvation; the voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the dwellings of the righteous. The right hand of the Lord doth valiantly, and brings mighty things to pass. I shall not die but live, and declare the works of the Lord, and tell what he has done for my soul. Blessed be God, who has not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me. O Lord my God, thou hast been watchful over me for good, thou was nigh to me, thou hast shewed thy fatherly care of me, and in love to my soul hast thou preserved me, because thou hadst a favor to me. I am thine, and I will be thine, and will love thee, and bless thy name, and give thee thanks for ever. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for greater Concernment and Diligence for the Soul, and the Things of another World.*

O LORD God, to whom I do owe myself and all that ever I am or have, thou hast given me my being, and my time and talents here in the world, as opportunities and advantages of thy service, and for the working out of my salvation. And O what have I to do upon earth, but to prepare myself for heaven, when I am here placed between the infinite eternity of happiness and of misery, in a capacity for the one, and in danger of the other. O what should be my care and utmost endeavor, but to flee from the wrath to come, and to lay hold on eternal life; to provide well for my everlasting condition, and to make sure work for my immortal soul in this only time of preparation; but O how negligent and careless have I been in that which most of all concerns me, doing every thing rather than the great work which thou didst send me into the world to do; and so thou mightest justly come upon me, Lord, with a dreadful surprise, to call me to my last account, in a day unlooked for, and at an hour that I should not be aware of; but for the sake of that mercy of thine in Christ Jesus, which has prevailed with thee to spare me so long, go on, I beseech thee, O my God, to be merciful to me, in forgiving me all my past sloth and negligence; and in quickening me to a greater concernment and assiduity, to redeem the time that I have lost, and to improve every present enjoyment to my soul's eternal advantage. O preserve me from all the distracting cares, and the sinful pleasures of this life; and let me look less upon the temporal things that are seen; and keep open my eyes towards the great unseen eternal things that are before me. O make me more

concerned for my everlasting state, and more careful to do that work, which above all things in the world, is most needful to be done. O let me dread the doom of the slothful servant, and not be listless to the business that is of the greatest importance. Lord show me both the truth and reality, and also the worth and excellency of things to come; both to dispel all my doubtings of them, and also to whet my earnest longings after them. O give me such a view and apprehension of my supreme eternal good, as may raise my desires after it, proportionably to it; and make me so dissatisfied without it, that I may count nothing too much to do, nothing too hard to endure, so that I may at last attain the blessed enjoyment of it.

O let the meditation of hell be a preservative to deter me from all the ways leading to that dreadful end; and may I so look to the heavenly joy set before me, that with all vigor and alacrity I may put forth myself, to get safe into the possession of everlasting glory. O my God, give me the spirit of wisdom from above, to discern the vast disproportion between the short moment of this present time, and the infinite duration of immortality; and between the pleasures of sin, that are but for a season, and those heavenly pleasures that are at thy right hand for evermore. Seeing all these things must be dissolved, O make me such a manner of person as I ought to be, in all holy conversation and godliness; looking for, and hasting to, the coming of the day of God. Quicken me, O Lord, in my dulness, and hasten me out of my delays; that I may not prolong the time of doing what I am convinced is necessary to be done; to save me from the second death, and bring me to inherit eternal life. O! to what purpose am I troubled and careful about many

things, when I neglect the one thing needful! Help me, my God, to use the reason and understanding which thou hast given me, in looking before me, and considering what it is that makes for my true happiness; and give me also resolution and faithfulness to choose and follow it, whatever difficulties at present may be in it. Help me, O Lord, to remember and consider all the powerful inducements, which may quicken me into a greater care for my eternal state; that my being may not last longer than the good of my being, but may it go well with me elsewhere for ever, when all that is here shall fail me. O that I may now give diligence to make my calling and election sure, and strive to enter in at the strait gate, and labor for that meat which endures to everlasting life; by patient continuing in well-doing, seeking for glory, honor and immortality; that I may not fall short of that rest which remains for the people of God: but so labor here in thy work, that hereafter I may rest from my labors in thy kingdom; not for the merit of my works but for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Faithfulness and Constancy in the Profession of our Religion.*

O MY Lord and my God, who hast called me to the knowledge of thy eternal truth, and by the light of the gospel shining upon me, hast made the way of life and salvation plain before me! Be thou pleased to give me the ingenuity and courage still to confess thee before men; and to own thy holy religion, even in the face of an evil and adulterous generation. O let me not be tossed to and fro, and carried away with every wind of doctrine by the slight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they

lie in wait to deceive. My God and guide! suffer me not to be led away with the error of the wicked and to fall from my own steadfastness; but may I ever hold fast the profession of my faith without wavering, and hold the beginning of my confidence steadfast to the end. O give me such experimental knowledge and relish, and love of thy holy truth, as may make me ever faithful and true to it; that my mind may not be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ, and that I may never be put out of that religion, the goodness whereof I have perceived so much by my own experience; but may still appear with zeal for the religion in which I have found so much happy advantage, and heavenly satisfaction to my soul; and grant me, good Lord, to find and feel still more and more of the powerful efficacy of true Christianity upon my heart, that I may be rooted and grounded in the faith, and retain such a dear love of the truth, and take so much pleasure in the way which thy grace has put me upon, that I may never turn from it, nor prove false to it; but notwithstanding all temptations to seduce or affright me out of it, I may openly declare for it, and ever be true to it, and faithfully persist in it to my life's end. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for Zeal and Activity in the Practice of our Religion.*

O LORD, the holy jealous God! thou hast declared how loathsome to thee are the lukewarm, and pronounced him cursed that does the work of the Lord deceitfully; and told us the dreadful doom of the slothful servant, who was called wicked, and condemned, not for committing foul evils, but for neglecting to improve his talents. Thou didst send

us into this world to provide for the next; and we are a people devoted to the Lord, that have vowed and promised to serve our God, with all the utmost and best that we are or have: This is the one thing needful, that we were made for, and that we are all most strictly bound to, and must in earnest mind and follow it, as ever we would escape the damnation of hell, and enter into the joy of our Lord; but I am ashamed, O my God, that I have loitered so long in thy vineyard, and trifled so much in thy work; that I have busied myself about vanities; and slighted my greatest business. And well may I now tremble for fear of thy judgments, when I have so little concerned and bestirred myself, as one of thy redeemed, zealous of good works.

O merciful Lord! forgive me all my sinful omissions, and all my careless performances of the duties of thy service; and quicken me into a greater zeal and diligence to promote thy glory, and to work out my salvation; that I may not only contend earnestly for the faith and doctrine of the gospel, but be as zealous for the practice of all gospel duties; so shewing that I am in earnest with the religion whereof I make profession.

To glorify thy name, and save our souls, is the greatest of all our concerns in the world; nothing can deserve so much of our care and zeal, and diligence; when it is for a crown and a kingdom, for heaven and the glory eternal, and to be delivered from thy wrath and everlasting damnation, that we strive and labor. O how much are we concerned to be vigorous in, and attentive to it! ready to do every good work, and most industrious at the business of such infinite consequence, abounding in the work of the Lord! when upon this moment depends the endless eternity to come, and all that concerns us for-

ever, hangs upon the poor short life present, that is so quickly gone, and will never return. O my God! imprint these considerations so deep upon my heart, that I may no more trifle with the weighty things of eternity, nor show a cold indifference about that which is of such absolute necessity; but may act as one that must be a blessed or a damned creature for ever: and be as zealous for my God, as ever I have been eager for the world; and as active in the pursuit of things eternal, as I have been to pursue the temporal; that I may indeed give up myself to thy service, and make it the main care and business of my life; so shewing the sincerity of what I do profess, by that zeal and fervency, which is the life and soul of Christianity. O thou great Rewarder of them that diligently seek thee! help me seriously to engage in thy service, and unweariedly to go through with it; not slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; exercising myself to godliness, continuing watchful in prayer, keeping my heart with all diligence, ordering my conversation with all usefulness, and running the race set before me with all cheerfulness, full of life and spirit in thy work, and full of good deeds and fruits to thy honor, ever laboring to be accepted here to thy favor, and hereafter to thy glory.

Yea, make me more zealous for thy honor, O Lord, than for my own; and whatever is injurious and reproachful to thee, O let me hate it perfectly, and oppose it strenuously, and yet with such prudence and kindness towards men, that I may not betray my own shame, in defending thy glory, nor let my zeal consume, but inflame my charity; and put me upon doing all the good that ever I am able in my generation; to serve the interest of my Lord, and to help forward the salvation of souls. O make

me valiant for thy truth, and discreet in my conduct, that I may neither betray the holy cause by my fear, nor reproach it by my folly. O let me not spend my zeal and spirits for earthly, but for heavenly things; not for my own lust and honor, but for thy blessed will and pleasure; not in frivolous contentions, about the little appendages and circumstantials of religion, but in pressing after the vital and substantial part; and in my concernment and endeavor about the great unquestionable duties and qualifications necessary to the saving of the soul. And grant me thy grace, O Lord, to live now so zealously to the glory of thy name, that I may come to live blessedly for ever, in the glories of thy kingdom; not for the sake of my services, but of thy mercies, whose gift is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer against Worldliness, and for a Heavenly Mind.*

THOU, O blessed God, art the only satisfying portion and happiness of our souls, in whom alone the desires of our hearts may find that rest and repose, which all the world else cannot give; but, alas, this world, and the things of it, have had too much of my thoughts, and too much of my heart, till I have grown remiss in my affections, and cold in my love towards thee, my God, and those things above, which are most worthy of my love. I have been eager in the pursuit of vanities and trifling concerns of this present time; but O how slack and flighty in that which does most nearly and eternally concern me! Intent upon this world, as if it would never end; and forgetful of the next, as if it should never begin. I have forsaken the Fountain of living

waters, to hew to myself the broken cistern that can hold no water; disquieting myself in vain, seeking rest and finding none; because I have sought where the precious treasure is not to be found. And so thou mightest, Lord, leave me to inherit my own wretched choice; to eat of the fruit of my own way, and to be filled with my own devices; giving me all my portion in this life, which I have so brutishly preferred before an infinitely better; and shutting me out of that heavenly kingdom, which I have despised for the sake of this present world.

But, O thou Father of mercies! forgive me all the defects of my love to thee, and all the excesses of my love to earthly things; and so moderate my desires after these inferior goods, that instead of doating upon the world, I may covet earnestly the best gifts, and seek first thy kingdom and its righteousness; esteeming godliness the greatest gain, and all things else but loss and dung, for the love of Christ, and the glories of heaven. O shew me so much of those great and glorious things of the world to come, as may dull and deaden my affections to the things of this present world, and crucify the world to me, and me to the world; that it may lose the great force which it has had upon me; that I may be more disengaged and loosened from it, and more enamored with, and intent upon the things above, were Christ sitteth at the right hand of God, which will fully satisfy and never fail me. O let me not debase my heavenly soul, to lie grovelling and rooting in the earth, and licking the dust, as if I were all flesh, and had nothing to do, but to trudge for the vile body. O may I less mind earthly things, and despise the most tempting enjoyments of this world, for the love of my Lord, and the hope of his glory. May my heart be with my treasure in the heaven, looking for the

blessed hope, and the glorious appearance of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ; not coveting great things of the world, nor to continue long in it; but rather in care to get safe out of it, and desirous to be dissolved, and to be ever with the Lord. Even so, come Lord Jesus. *Amen, Amen.*

*A Prayer for Perseverance and Grace to endure to the end.*

ETERNAL God, with whom is everlasting strength! thou art able to keep us from falling, and to perform the good work begun in us, till the day of Jesus Christ. But Lord thou knowest how weak and mutable I am; how wavering and bent to backsliding; how apt to decline and fall off, after I have been set up, and put in a good hopeful way heavenward; and in what danger still to undo myself, after all the great things which thou hast done for me. O Lord of love, have pity on my infirmities, and strengthen me in my weakness. Preserve me, thou blessed Guardian of thy people, who keepest the feet of thy saints; O preserve me from the danger of apostacy, and falling away from any good beginnings, to which thy grace has ever wrought me; and put thy fear in my heart, that I may not depart from thee. Make me so firmly thine, that nothing which befals me in the world may ever part betwixt thee and my soul; and make me so resolute for thy service, that nothing which any can say or do, may interrupt me in, or take me off that way of life which is above to the wise, to depart from hell beneath. O let me not be of the number of those that draw back to perdition; but of that happy number who do believe, to the saving of the soul.

O Lord God! thou hast begun to show thy servant thy greatness; and thy mighty hand; go on, I pray thee, to work for the glory of thy name, and perfect that which concerns me. Thou hast been my help, leave me not, nor forsake me, O God of my salvation; but hold thou me up, and I shall be safe, and I will have respect to thy statutes continually. Stablish, O Lord, strengthen and settle me, and leave me no will nor power to resist the gracious designs and methods of thy love and mercy, for the healing and saving of my soul. And as I, by my frailty, still do renew my sins, gracious Lord, through thy mercy, renew me to repentance; and though I fall, let me not be utterly cast down; but uphold me with thy Almighty hand; preserve me to thy heavenly kingdom; and keep me by the power of God, through faith to salvation. O make me so faithful until death, that thou mayest give to me the crown of life; so to endure to the end, that I may be saved; that in the end of my life I may receive the glorious consummation of all my hopes, that blessed end of my faith, the eternal salvation of my soul. *Amen, Amen.*

## *A Prayer in Prosperity.*

BLESSED God, rich in goodness and mercy! thou art the portion of my inheritance and of my cup; thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen to me in pleasant places, and I have a goodly heritage. I abound and am full of thy good things and surrounded on every side with thy mercies. And so thou makest my affairs succeed to my mind, that I cannot but be pleased and satisfied with my condition, and desire with all the soul to acknowledge, and bless and praise thee, for all thy special favors,

wherein thou hast made me to differ. Glory be to thee, O Lord, who hast dealt so well with thy unworthy servant, and signalized me with such great and sundry blessings. But when thou hast made my mountain to stand strong, I must not say in my prosperity, I shall never be moved; whereas, I know not what shall be on the morrow, nor how soon the sun may be hid that now shines upon me. O Lord! in the time of my health and peace and prosperity, help me to remember, and provide for the time of trouble and sickness and death; when the world's enjoyments will shrink away from me, and prove utterly unable to support and relieve me. Yea, because the prosperity of fools destroys them; and the gaining the world is the loss of so many souls; and that men of the world have all their portion in this life, grant, O heavenly Father, that this may not be my portion; that I may not abuse the world's good to my dishonor, and my own undoing, nor turn the gifts of thy bounty into weapons of rebellion against thee, but use them in humility and sobriety, and thy holy fear; doing the better service to thee, the greater obligations thou layest upon me; yea, making many others to fare the better for such thy bounty to thy servant. O make me as willing, as thou hast made me able, to refresh the bowels of such as want what I do enjoy; and as freely to give as I have received; that riches may not be kept to my hurt, but laid out to do myself and others real good. —As I have opportunity, let me do good to all, especially to them who are of the household of faith.

O gracious Lord! take the snare out of my worldly enjoyments, and preserve me from the danger and destruction that so commonly attends a full and prosperous condition; and rather turn me out

of all my earthly possessions, than that they should lie in my way, to stop me out of thy heavenly kingdom. O let me not want the affliction which thou knowest needful to my salvation; and though thou makest me poor or givest me trouble, let me be contented and bless thy name; even taking away from me as well as giving to me. But whatever I have here to enjoy, O let me never set my heart upon it, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the ever-living God, who alone can be to my immortal soul, a never failing portion. O preserve me from the pride and forgetfulness of God, and love of the world, and all the vices and corruptions incident to a high and plentiful estate: and let none of my abundance or success in the world, ever puff me up with a proud conceit of myself, or a scornful disdain of others, or wanton kicking against the Lord. O let it not pull me from thee; but with the cords of love do thou draw me nearer to thee; and with all my other plenty, my God, let me have the fulness of thy grace, and be rich in good works, and with all my other successes, O that my soul may prosper, and be well in thy blessed favor, and make glad with saving mercy, and thy good acceptance of me in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for the Enlargement and Prosperity of the Church.*

O GOD of all grace, who hast called out of this present evil world a chosen generation, to know thy will, to seek thy face, to follow thy ways, and to inherit thy glory; bless all thy people every where, and cause thy face to shine upon them; and so add to their number, that all the ends of the earth may remember themselves, and turn to the Lord, and see the salvation of our God. Call home

to thee again thy once only people the Jews; and take the veil off their hearts, that they may see and own their Messias; and let that blood of Christ, which they imprecated upon their heads, to their confusion, light on their hearts, to their conversion. Bring in the fulness of the Gentiles; and give thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for his possession. O give thy gospel a free and effectual passage throughout the world, that it may be further propagated where it has not yet reached, and the joyful sound may be heard, even where Christ is not yet named; and give such good success to it, where it shines already, that all who have received it, may sincerely obey it; and every one who names the name of Christ, may depart from iniquity; and let their light shine before men, to the glory of our heavenly Father, and to the adorning of thy doctrine and advancing the religion of God our Saviour.

Convince and convert both the professed enemies of Christ, and also the enemies of his own house. Beat down all antichristian powers, both in the false church, where Christianity is so foully corrupted; and also beyond the borders of Christendom, where it is openly opposed. O shew unto them all the light of thy truth; that they may know it, as it is in Jesus, and expel their prejudices, together with their darkness: and so bring them to receive thy truth in the love of it, that they may be saved. O that the true religion of our Lord Jesus may prevail powerfully, and gain more proselytes daily throughout the world; that Jerusalem may be the joy and praise of the whole earth; and that we may see the good of it all the days of our life! and O that all the errors, both in judgment and practice, the heresies of doctrine, and the ungodliness of life, may be more and

more exposed and confounded, and suppressed, till they be utterly abolished! that the wickedness of the wicked, being under rebuke and disgrace, may come to an end; and that truth and peace, and holiness, may get still more credit and authority; and reign and flourish to the ends of the earth; through the abundant grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for the Reformed Churches abroad.*

BLESS, O Lord, in especial manner, all the churches that profess thy holy and eternal truth. Protect them from the enemies that have evil will at Sion; preserve them in the faith, and restore to them peace where it is not, and continue it to them where it is. Thou hast showed thy people hard things! thou hast made them to drink the wine of astonishment: O how long shall thy anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture! make them glad according to the time wherein thou hast afflicted them, and wherein they have seen adversity. Lord, how long shall the wicked triumph! How long shall they utter and speak, and take crafty counsel against thy people, and consult against thy hidden ones! Arise, O God, plead thy own cause; remember how the foolish man blasphemeth thee daily. Help, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. O that thou wouldst arise and have mercy upon Sion; and that the time to favor her, the set time, were come! Thou art our King, O God; command deliverances for Jacob. Arise for thy servant's help, and redeem them for thy mercy's sake. Let not the rod of the wicked rest upon the lot of the righteous; but give a check and stop to the persecuting spirit that breaks in pie-

ces thy people, O Lord, and afflicts thy heritage. When such wicked enemies come to eat them up, see them stumble and fall; and let thy people never be ashamed. Yea, not only restrain the remainder of that wrath; but so turn it as thou didst in the persecuting Saul, that the enemies and opposers of thy ways and servants may become lovers and followers of the same.

O hear the sighs and support the spirits, repair the breaches, and hasten the deliverance of thy servants, who suffer for the testimony of thy truth, and are persecuted for righteousness' sake: yea, for thy sake, are killed all the day long, and counted as sheep for the slaughter. O make thy face to shine upon thy servants; and redeem Israel out of all his troubles. Be thou, Lord, a refuge for the oppressed; a refuge in times of trouble; and come in to their succor; and make them a way to escape out of the hands of such unreasonable men, whose mercies are cruel. O break thou the arm of the wicked and evil man, and judge the oppressed, that the men of the earth may no more oppress. Shew thy marvellous loving kindness, that thou savest by thy right hand them that trust in thee, from those that rise up against them. When their power is gone, make known thy own; and when there is none to help, reveal thy own arm to bring salvation. Such as are banished, and driven to seek their bread in strange countries, leaving all else behind them, that they might take their religion along with them, Lord, grant them to find favor with those among whom they are scattered; and of thy fatherly care, provide for them; and, in thy good time restore them to their possessions, and to sure habitations, and quiet resting places. Or if thou wilt not abate them the trou-

bles on earth: yet Lord, let theirs be the kingdom of heaven. For the outward comforts which they have lost, O give them heavenly joys within, and everlasting consolations. And by their persecution and dispersion, prepare them for, and conduct and hasten them to the blessed rest, which remains for thy people, and the more glorious rewards in those heavenly mansions above, where such as die in the Lord rest from their labors, and their works follow them. That there, out of the reach of all disturbance and danger, they may sing thy praise for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for our Church.*

BLESSED be thy name, O Lord our God, who hast called us to be thy people; and caused the day-spring from on high to visit us, and the light of thy gospel to shine upon us. Thou hast sent to us the word of salvation; and made thy holy religion to be our birth-right, and the professed religion of our nation. Thou hast not been deficient in kindness to us, gracious Lord; but O how short have we come of our duty which we owe to thee, our God! Great things still, time after time, thou hast done in our behalf: but O how little have we done in thy service; and how much against thy holy, good and righteous laws! We have long experienced thy care and kindness, as the vineyard of the Lord, which thy right hand has planted! Thou hast hedged us about with thy providence, digged and pruned us with thy judgments, watered and refreshed us with thy mercies; and justly mightest thou, after all, expect the good fruits from us. But alas! our greatest fruitfulness has been in the briers and thorns of contention, and the unfruitful

works of darkness, to dishonor the blessed name by which we are called, and to affront the heavenly goodness, whereby we have been obliged. So unworthy have we walked of our holy vocation, and so little is it to be seen among us how much thou hast done for us, that we must confess, O Lord, thou mightest justly take away the gospel of the kingdom from us, and give to another people, that should bring forth fruits more worthy of it, and more answerable to it, than we have done.

But, O gracious, long-suffering God, who in judgment hast ever remembered mercy towards us! enter not so into judgment with us, for our unmindfulness of thee, and our boldness with thee; our barrenness under all the means of grace, our ingratitude for the most precious benefits, and our abuses of the innumerable blessings, and favors pertaining to this life and a better, which we so long have enjoyed; nor remember our sins against us; but remember thy own tender mercies, and loving kindnesses, which have been ever of old. O say not of this land, thou hast no pleasure in it; but return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, behold and visit this vineyard, and the branch which thou makest strong for thyself. Be thou as a wall of fire about our church, to check the malice, and break the forces of all that would invade the peace, corrupt the purity, and destroy the prosperity of it. And be thou as a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap in the midst of us, to purge away our dross, and to purify us yet more from all remaining errors and corruptions; that righteousness may be the foundation of the walls of our church, and peace the ornament of her palaces.

O may that right hand of thine which does valiant-

ly, work wonders for our safety. Especially, be thou pleased, Lord, to work such a holy reformation upon us, that we may be a truly reformed people, as well as so called; a peculiar people, zealous of good works; a people eminent for that righteousness which exalts a nation; that thou, the righteous Lord, who lovest righteousness, mayest bless us, and with favor compass us as with a shield; and cause thy anger towards us to cease; and rejoice over us to do us good. After all the methods for our good, that we have resisted, O what shall we ask, but that thou wouldst be pleased, O Lord our God, to do for us, what thou knowest effectual to reclaim and save us? and after all the grace of God that we have received in vain, O give us the grace which we may not withstand or abuse, but comply with it, to make us such as thou wouldst have us; and to secure to us all thy saving mercies in Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord, and only Saviour. *Amen.*

## *The Magistrate's Prayer.*

O THOU great and supreme Ruler of all the world! by whom all the governors on earth are set up, to restrain the unruly, and to favor thy people; though thou needest not the services of men or angels to assist thee; but canst immediately, by thyself, do whatever thou pleasest in heaven and in earth, with the least word of thy mouth, with the least motion of thy will, yet thou art pleased to honor some of thy creatures as thy vicegerents, and to order and govern the sons of men, by those of their own kind, exalting some chosen out of the people, to preside and rule over the rest. Me thou hast called, Lord, to this honor, and hast been

pleased to set me above the common lot of men, as one of the little representatives of thy blessed self. O King of glory! I wilt exalt thee, who has vouchsafed to raise me, and as thou hast made me to differ from others in this dignity, so make me to excel in every praise-worthy property. O that I may represent not only thy power and majesty, but thy wisdom and holiness, thy truth and goodness, thy justice and mercy. O that I may retain a lowly mind in my high station, and not forget or lift up myself, nor insult over my poor inferiors: but, like the great God, who despises not any, may I condescend to men of low estate; and without respect of persons, judge according to every man's work; yea, delight to rescue and succor the injured and oppressed; to deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him that has no helper.

O! may I rather fear my accounts, than be proud of my office; and in the fear of the Lord, let me ever be careful to execute that which is righteous in the sight of God; and with all faithfulness to discharge my trust, as one that must be judged myself and find the same measure with which I mete. And seeing the eyes of all are upon me, and my place exposes me the more to common notice, and my example has a greater influence than that of a private ordinary man; O make me Lord, the more vigilant and cautious in the inspection of myself and the ordering of my conversation aright; that I may not embolden others to commit such wickedness as I ought to punish, nor lead people into the sin and ruin which I should help to save them from; nor be a scandal and grief of heart to the holy followers of Jesus, whom I am set up to patronize, and comfort; but let my conversation be such, as shall put to confusion dissolute and exor-

bitant sinners, as well as my justice strike terror into the evil-doers. O make me a hearty lover of all good men, and one that honors them who fear the Lord. Make me ever ready and forward to defend, and countenance, and encourage the generation of thy children, such as live godly in Christ Jesus. And let me with courage exert my authority in a zealous vindication of thy glory; and in asserting the rights, and promoting the growth and advancement of thy true and holy religion. O that the honor of thy name, and the interest of thy kingdom, and the welfare of thy church and chosen, may be ever next my heart, that above all things I may seek the things of Jesus Christ; and truly and indifferently minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue. And all the power and interest that I have in the world, O may I so lay it out, for the service of thy holy truth, and set forward the blessed design of the gospel of thy dear Son, that after my advancement here, I may not be thrown down hereafter; nor receive the dreadful doom, for betraying my trust, and abusing my authority; but may appear with comfort and joy before my Judge, whose holy cause I espoused and advanced; and whose faithful servants I sheltered and cherished, and shewed the greatest kindness to them; and with them may be raised at the last to that highest of all bliss and glory, which shall endure for evermore. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer for all our Bishops, Pastors, and Ministers.*

O LORD, most high, the glorious head of all the church! who hast appointed various offices in it, for the perfecting of the saints, for the

work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; bless in especial manner all those whom thou hast sent to bless the people in thy name; and make all our spiritual fathers careful and tender nursing fathers of the church. Grant them knowledge and grace, both to manage themselves, and order their conversation aright; and also to watch for souls, and feed the flock of God, and take the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; caring for all committed to their charge, and giving to every one his portion in due season: that they may rightly divide thy word, and speak it as they ought to speak, and do thy work as thy workmen, that need not be ashamed. O make them skilful and faithful in their sacred callings, and successful and happy in their good endeavors to promote the knowledge and love of thy truth, and all the duties of a holy life. And let both their example and their doctrine be such, as shall help to save themselves and those that hear them. O that they may speak as the oracles of God, in demonstration of the spirit and of power; and that they may show themselves patterns of all the good things which they preach too thers; not prostituting their holy calling to serve the interests and lusts of men; but conscientiously discharging it, to the glory of their Lord! not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth, commending themselves to every man's conscience, in the sight of God; and being so good ensamples to the flock, that having preached to others, themselves may not be castaways, but experience the joy of that salvation which they preach; and when the chief Shepherd shall appear, receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Though the world hates, and the devil opposes them, and even many that should encourage their labors, do but strive to weaken their hands, and afflict their hearts, O great and good Lord! do thou shew thy own strength, to accomplish thy own work. Open a wide door to the gospel, and defeat all opposition; stop the mouths of false prophets, and drive away ravenous wolves from the flock, and give them faithful pastors. And Lord, crown the endeavors of thy messengers with thy heavenly blessing; that they may be mighty through God, to pull down the strong holds of sin; and to edify and build up thy church in the true fear and love of God, and in the right knowledge and faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. And because wise men die, and cannot bequeath their learning and talents unto others: to supply breaches made upon us by their mortality, bless our universities, and all the schools and nurseries of good learning and true religion in the land, that they may send forth men able and apt to serve thee in church and state; and to oblige the world, by doing good in their generations, and shewing people the way to be happy both here and ever. *Amen.*

## *The Author's Prayer for himself as a Minister:*

O BLESSED Jesus, my Lord and my God! what high honor hast thou done me in calling me to the office which thou wast pleased to take upon thyself! who camest not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to preach the gospel of the kingdom, and teach the way of salvation. All glory be to thee, who has been pleased so to dignify me; but as thou thyself, the head of the corner, art to some a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence;

so thy messengers are to them that perish, the savor of death unto death, as well as to them that are saved, the savor of life unto life. And if thy wise and holy servant asked, Who is sufficient for these things? Well may I, a weak and sinful wretch, tremble under the work of the ministry, lest the blood of those that perish, through my neglect and default, should be required at my hands, and lest when I have shewed others the way to heaven, I myself should be shut out: but I look unto thee, O Lord, my life, my strength and my Redeemer, who hast appointed me in this station, to accomplish me also for it. O thou that ordainest strength out of the mouths of babes and sucklings, magnify thy power in my weakness; and show thyself so graciously and mightily on my behalf, that I may do all things as I ought, through Christ strengthening me. O let me learn from thee what I shall teach concerning thee. Open my understanding, O Lord, that I may well understand the scriptures, and rightly divide the word of truth; and be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convince the gainsayers. O put such thoughts into my mind, and such words into my mouth, that out of the abundance of my heart, my mouth may speak to the glory of thy name, and to the edification of those unto whom I make my application. O make me wise to win souls, and watchful over them, as one that must give an account of them; not entangling myself in the affairs of this life, but waiting on my ministry; taking heed to myself, and to my doctrine; studying to show myself approved of God, and thoroughly furnished to every good work. Give me skill and conduct, prudently to steer my course through all difficulties in my way; and give me patience and courage to withstand all assaults and opposition

which I have to encounter. O my Lord, be with me, and guide me, and help me, and strengthen and and succor me, now and always, in the great work lying upon me. Open to me a door of utterance, that I may speak thy word as I ought to speak; and make me faithful and diligent, and successful in my sacred calling; doing thy work as thy workman, that need not be ashamed; not preaching myself, but Christ Jesus the Lord; nor seeking the praise of men, but the honor of my God; yea, make me an example of all the holy properties, and praise worthy practices which I preach to others; that I may not lay upon them the burdens which I refuse to bear myself; but go before them in the ways which they are to follow; holding forth the word of life in my conversation, as well as in my doctrine; that I may shine with a convincing light to them, and not lay a stumbling block before them; neither making the heart of the righteous sad, nor strengthening the hands of the wicked; nor giving just offence to any, but approving myself as far as I am able, useful and beneficial unto all; keeping under my body, and bringing it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

And, O thou that givest the increase, command a blessing, I pray thee, upon all my studies and endeavors, that I may not spend my strength for nought, nor labor in vain; but that I may make full proof of my ministry, and be instrumental, through thy grace, to convert the unconverted, and to build up them that are in any measure sanctified; and so to save myself, and those that hear me, that when I have finished my course, I may give an account of my stewardship with joy, and not with grief; and receive the crown of righteousness at thy hands,

not for my merits, but for thy mercies' sake. *Amen. Amen.*

*A Prayer for a Blessing upon the Societies confederate to promote Reformation of Manners.*

O RIGHTEOUS Lord! thou lovest righteousness, and thy countenance does behold the upright. Thou favorest them that espouse the righteous cause, and wilt for ever glorify such as turn many to righteousness. Thou hast not only commanded us to be holy, and to walk circumspectly ourselves, but also to shew our concern for the souls of others; to contend for the faith, and contend with the wicked, and not suffer sin upon our brother; but applying our endeavors to convert the sinner from the error of his ways; and to recover those out of the snare of the devil, who have been taken captive by him at his will.

Help, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth, and the faithful fail from among the children of men; even all seek their own; and O how few the things that are Jesus Christ's! Arise, O God, and plead thy own cause; and be with them that rise up against the evil doers, and that strive to do good to this present evil world, by a merciful severity, to restrain the unruly from undoing themselves; and by executing judgment, to stay the plague and wrath gone out from the Lord against us all. Plead their cause, O Lord, with them that strive with them, and stand up for their help; and stop the way against them that persecute them; and make them successful to promote the honor of thy great name, and the interest of thy holy religion.

O that none of the correctors of others may deserve like censure themselves! but that they may all

be blameless and harmless; the sons of God without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom they may shine as lights in the world. O give them a tender love to the souls of men; a zeal according to knowledge, and prudent conduct to walk in wisdom's ways towards them that are without. And give them good courage to endure the contradiction of sinners, and count it a small thing to be judged of man's judgment, and help them in their patience to possess their souls, and in meekness to instruct those that oppose themselves; and make the weapons of their warfare mighty through God, to the pulling down of strong holds. And so speed them with thy heavenly blessing, that how small soever was their beginning, their latter end may greatly increase. O let them go forth in thy strength, and prevail and prosper, as the blessed of the Lord.

Though we are cast into the dregs of time, when godliness declines, and iniquity abounds; and almost all abominations grow daring and impudent: yet, thou, Lord, that dost marvellous things, can bring light out of darkness; and when thou pleasest, canst change the face of evil times. Yea, glorious things are spoken of the last day; and thy word foretels such a holy and happy state of things, even upon earth, as this sinful and wretched world does not yet seem to have been blest with.

O when shall it be Lord; when shall judgment return to righteousness, and all the upright in heart follow it? O when shall the wickedness of the wicked come to an end? and profaneness and lewdness, debauchery and immorality, intemperance and extravagance, be put to confusion; and all iniquity stop her mouth, and the rightous flourish, and Jerusalem be the joy and praise of the whole earth!

The Lord hasten it in his time; and in the mean while give a check from heaven to the floods of ungodliness, that have lifted up their voice and their waves; and say to those proud waters, Hither shall ye go, and no further!

O cherish and prosper all good beginnings, and all hopeful proceedings for the furtherance of piety, and for the advancement of thy glory. Make magistrates and ministers, and all orders of men vigilant and diligent in keeping their own hearts, and ordering their own conversations aright; and also to set forward, what in them lies the reformation and edification of their neighbors; that all may account it not only their duty, but their honor and pleasure, to have their hands in this blessed glorious work, and may do it heartily, as to the Lord; to the bettering of the world, and to the rejoicing of all that, in sincerity, do love our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for our Benefactors.*

I DESIRE with all thankfulness to acknowledge thy loving kindness, O Lord my God, that thou hast given me so many comforts, and raised me up so many friends, and helps in the world. It is thou, Lord, who hast the hearts of all in thy hands, that turnest the hearts of any to shew me favor, and to do me good. They are but the instruments and means of conveyance; but thou art the blessed Author and original Fountain of all the kindness: to thee, therefore, where alone it is due, I give the glory and offer the sacrifice of praise. But for them, whom thou hast enabled, and also inclined to benefit and pleasure me, I am obliged to offer up the sacrifice of my prayers. O be thou kind to them, Lord, as they have been kind to me: refresh their

bowels, as they have refreshed mine; and requite their love, and all their endearing offices of friendship sevenfold into their bosoms. Make me studious ever to approve myself grateful; and ready to make all fitting returns in my power. And be thou pleased, O blessed God, infinitely good, to reward them where I cannot: yea, turn all the advantages I have had from them to their own greatest advantage. And for their goodness and their kind favors give them not only temporal mercies, but heavenly blessings, and everlasting consolations. O give them Christ, and all the good things of thy Spirit that accompany salvation; yea, give them thy own self, Lord, who art all in all, to be their blessed glorious portion for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for our pious Friends.*

GLORY be to thee, O Lord, for thy grace, discovered upon any of my friends. O how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee, which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee, before the sons of men. Save thy people, and bless thy inheritance: Feed them also, and lift them up for ever. Let none that wait on thee, O Lord, be ashamed; but let all that seek thee, rejoice and be glad in thee, and ever have cause to say, the Lord be magnified who has pleasure in the prosperity of his servants. O do good to them that are upright in their heart. And continue thy loving kindness, Lord, to all such as have chose the better part; and still desire to know, and fear and love thee more, and to serve and please thee better. O answer them in the wishes of their hearts, whose hearts thou knowest to be set upon the increase of thy grace and perfecting holiness in thy fear. Lead

them on from strength to strength, from one degree of saving knowledge and grace to another; till, from shining here as lights in the world, they come to shine as the stars, and as the brightness of the firmament, in the kingdom of their Father, for ever and ever. And while they are in the world, O do thou keep them, good Lord, from the evil of it; and bless and prosper all their designs and endeavors, to do still more and more good in it; that all about them may be the better for them, and that themselves, when come to the end of their pilgrimage here, may depart in peace, and hope, and joy; and find their grace exchanged for the crown of glory that fadeth not away; among all the redeemed and blessed of the Lord, where they will admire and enjoy thy love, and extol and magnify thy name for evermore. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer for our Friend whose Soul we fear to be in a dangerous Condition.*

O LORD, it was a mighty concernment upon the spirit of thy holy apostle, that made him declare, he had *great heaviness and continual sorrow in his heart, and could wish himself accursed from Christ, for his brethren, his kinsman, according to the flesh:* and somewhat like to this, thou knowest I feel in myself, with reference to some of my relations, especially my poor friend ————, who seems to be even in the *gall of bitterness and the bond of iniquity:* setting himself in a way that is far from good, and lying under the danger to be for ever lost. O what shall I do for him? and how shall I apply myself to be helpful to him? I would be taught of God; and I desire to learn wisdom of thee, my Lord, and to be enabled by thy grace, to use the methods and expedients that shall be most probable

and successful to work upon him, and to do him good. O instruct me in the way that I shall take, and assist and bless me in the means and endeavors I shall use to attain this desirable end.

Yea, thou great Almighty God, who workest all in all, and canst do whatever thou pleasest, to enlighten the darkest mind, to fashion the hardest hearts, conquer the stubbornest will and to turn even the most hopeless sinners to thyself; O be thou pleased to shew the irresistable efficacy of thy heavenly grace in the case that is so sad, and worthy of thyself to relieve. Be pleased, O Lord, to break in powerfully upon him, and discover to him what is amiss with him: and make him to know the danger of his sins, and in what condition his soul is. And open, Lord, his eyes, and soften his heart, and turn his course, and break the force of his temptations; and so make him a way to escape out of the enemy's hands; that even the dead may hear the voice of the Son of God and live. That the presumptuous may be startled, and the secure awakened, and he that is so far gone yet recovered: Yea, that the lost sheep may be brought home, and the sinner so repent and be converted, that his sins may be blotted out, and his soul be thoroughly healed, and mercifully accepted, and eternally saved.

O gracious God, thou hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but art reconcileable in the Son of thy love, to the very worst of thy enemies, and not willing that any should perish. O what profit is there in his blood! how shall the dead and damned praise thee? Lord of all power and mercy, get thee glory in his recovery. O speak the word, and thy sinful creature shall live, and for ever bless thy name. Dear Father, forgive him all the evil thoughts and devices of his heart, and all the offensive wicked

carriage of his life. Forgive him all his sins of omission and commission; and bring him out of all the ways of wickedness and ruin, into which he hath struck out; O bring him at last, with purpose of heart, to resign and give up himself to the Lord: and make him diligent to retrieve himself, and full of care for his soul, and very conscientious and zealous in all the practices of piety and honesty, and charity and sobriety; whereby he may approve himself to be truly changed, and quite another manner of person than he has been, in all holy conversation and godliness.

O grant him an inheritance among them that are sanctified, through faith in Christ Jesus; and send down that renewing grace into his heart, which may be there as a well of water, springing up to everlasting life. Thus comfort and rejoice the soul of thy servant, O Lord, who does wait upon thee, and cry unto thee, for such thy saving mercy, to be shewn upon me and mine, particularly upon this near ally, whom I bewail and recommend to thy grace; even for thy own mercy's sake, in the great Lover and Saviour of souls, who came to seek the lost, and to call sinners to repentance, even thy dearly beloved Son, our blessed Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for the Unconverted.*

O LORD God, gracious and merciful! thou art good to all; and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. And thou hast assured us, that thou hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that he should turn from his way and live. Yea, thou that didst call Zacheus an old sinner, and Saul a fierce persecutor, hast the power over all hearts in thy hands, to fashion them as thou wilt; and canst,

even out of stones, raise up children to Abraham; and make eminent saints out of the very vilest sinners. O Father of mercies, pity poor sinners that have not hearts to pity themselves: open their eyes to see the error of their ways, and the danger of their case: soften their hearts into a penitent concernment for their sins; and awaken them into a timely care of their souls. O let thy Spirit convince them how bad it is with them; and set their sins in order before them; that they may know their transgressions, and what is the wages of sin, and the dreadful portion of all ungodly men; and know where their help lies, and what they must do to be saved: and the Lord make them faithful to their convictions; that they may not hold the truth in unrighteousness; but make haste to do what they are convinced is necessary to be done for their poor sinking souls, before it be too late.

O good God, give repentance to the acknowledgment of the truth, unto such as have opposed themselves, that they may be recovered out of the snare of the devil, who have been taken captive by him at his will; that thy power and mercy may be glorified in their conversion and salvation; and not thy truth and justice in their ruin and destruction.

That they are so far from the kingdom of God, that they contradict and blaspheme thy truth, and stumble at thy word, and set it at nought; resisting the means of their salvation, and hating and abusing the followers of Jesus; turning again to rend thy servants: O Lord, our heavenly Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. And stop and turn them as thou didst the persecuting Soul, when he was mad against the saints, and verily thought with himself that he ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus. Put them in fear, O Lord, that they may know themselves to be but chaff and

stubble before thee, our God, who art to the wicked a consuming fire. And bring down their high looks, subdue their stiff necks, and break their hardened hearts, to make them to submit unto thee, that they may not be slain before thee.

And such as think they are rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that they are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked; O Lord, discover them to themselves, and shew them the true state of their souls; that they may be sorrowfully concerned for their sins, and apprehend the peril they are in, and timely seek out for help, and flee from the wrath to come.

Such as are ignorant and out of the way, and, to do their souls good, have no knowledge, Lord, have compassion on them; and call them out of darkness, into thy marvellous light, that they may not perish for lack of knowledge. O let them be taught of God to know thee and themselves, and the things belonging to their peace, before they be hid from their eyes. O thou that commandest the light to shine out of darkness, be pleased to shine into their hearts; shew them thy ways, and lead them in thy truth, that they may not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Such as are in pernicious errors, and damnable heresies, departed from the faith once delivered to the saints; having their minds corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ; perverting the truth, as it is in Jesus; and not only swerving from the pure doctrine of the gospel themselves, but also lying in wait to seduce and deceive others. O Father of lights, take away the evil which is upon their hearts, that they may see wherein they have erred, and come to receive the truth in the love of it, and earnestly contend for the faith, which they once destroyed.

The prosperous worldings and secure sinners, settled upon their lees, that are at ease in their possessions, and admire and doat upon the worldly good, as if it were the chief and only good; applauding themselves in their portion that they have in this life, as if they had no need of God, nor to take care for any other heaven; O dear Father, shew them how base is their choice, so to go astray from the Lord; and how rotten the foundation, on which at present they stand. O make them to know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God; and that all this world can never either satisfy the desire, or recompence for the loss of a soul: yea, open their eyes, O Lord, to see how the fashion of this world passeth away; and how soon all that wherein they trust and delight will be utterly gone, as if it had never been! and what multitudes by forsaking of God to cleave unto mammon, miscarry, and are lost for ever; drowned in that destruction and perdition, from whence there is no redemption: that they may be checked and cooled in their pursuit and love of the world, and flee from its snares, for the life of their souls; and so leave all for Christ, and the everlasting glory to come; that they may not be condemned with the world, but saved in the great day of the Lord.

And such as the loose and profane, and scandalous in their lives, making bold to rebel against Heaven, and committing all uncleanness with greediness; scoffing at the followers of Jesus, and deriding all that is serious and holy, and needful to the saving of the soul; refusing to be ashamed, and hating to be reformed; how dangerous and desperate soever seems their case; yet, Lord, it is not past thy help and cure, who callest those things that are not, as if they were; who canst change the leopard's spots, and the Ethiopian's

skin; yea, and bring not only something out of nothing, but the greatest good even out of the worst evil. O! where sin has abounded, may thy grace much more abound. Thou, Lord God Almighty, do the great work of thy grace, to heal such wounds and bruises, and putrifying sores; and to recover the ruinous sinners so far gone, under such deadly distempers, that the prodigals may come to themselves, and arise, and go to their Father; that such as were dead may be alive again, and such as were lost may be found; that they may yet turn from their evil ways and come to see the beauties of holiness, and delight to do thy blessed will, O God, and obtain an inheritance among them that are sanctified, through faith in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for all that desire our Prayers.*

O LORD God of the spirits of all flesh! thy word requires us to pray for others, as well as for ourselves; and to call upon thee as our common Father in Jesus Christ. And though I am unworthy to speak to thy heavenly Majesty, O most High, either for myself, or others; yet, in the sense of thy mercy, and the obligation of my duty and charity, I take upon me to become an humble petitioner to thee, my Lord, in behalf of all such as desire to be partakers of my prayers. O that they may share in thy rich mercies, according to their several wants and necessities. They are known to thee by name; O let them be known of thee in the number of thy children. Thou knowest what they most need, and chiefly desire; O thou gracious Giver of good, answer them in the desires of their hearts, as far as they desire the things that are meet and good; and where they desire what is unfitting and hurtful, convince

them of their error, that they may not persist in it. And where they see not the things of their peace, or are cold to that which is most for their good, O Lord, shew them the saving way, and grant them a great love for it, and true zeal to follow it. Bless them, gracious Father, with so much of the world's good, as thou knowest to be good for them; but especially remember them with the favor which thou bearest to thy people. Instruct them, Lord, in the knowledge of thy will, and what they must do to be saved; and make them faithful to practise according to the light which thou art pleased to give them; yea, incline their hearts to take pleasure in the performance of their duty. Bless them, O God of all grace, with that grace and favor of thine, in which is life, and with all spiritual blessings in heavenly things in Christ Jesus.

## *A Prayer for the Blessing of our intended Marriage.*

O MY God, thy bountiful favors have exceeded all my expectations, as well as my deservings: and though I have wretchedly abused thy kindness and love, yet still thou waitest to be gracious; and art not weary to shew mercy. Now thy good providence, Lord, hast set the fruition before me, which looks hopeful upon me, and for good to me. If thou knowest it to be so indeed, O Lord of love, promote and bring it to pass. And, that thou mayest bless and prosper my designs, grant that I may proceed in thy fear and favor; so as shall be for the glory of thy name, and the eternal welfare of myself, and thy servant, whom my thoughts and affections are set upon. O give me such a partner of my fortunes as may be a blessing

to me, for this life and a better. And make us truly beneficial and comfortable to one another in all the best respects pertaining to our chiefest good. Grant, Lord, that we may be helps meet for each other, in reference to both worlds; and that our love may be sincere without guile; pure without lust; and lasting without decay. O thou that fashionest all hearts, unite our affections upon such just and worthy accounts, as may make them firm and durable to the end. Wed us both to thy blessed self, as well as to one another, that our marriage may be in the Lord; and not separate us from, but bring us nearer to our God. O grant us new supplies of thy grace for this new estate of our lives, that we may fill up the relation into which we are entering with all suitable duty; that we may not only be faithful, in still keeping the marriage bed undefiled, but be mutual helps and comforts, both in the temporal and spiritual concerns; and even conspire together, to pleasure, and honor, and benefit one another; and, above all, to glorify and praise thee our God, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *The Husband's Prayer.*

ACCEPT my humble thanks to thee, Lord my God, who has provided a help-meet for me, that is thy gift; and such an one as thy good providence hast appointed to be my partner in the nearest relation. O teach and enable me, in all things, to carry myself towards her as behoves and becomes me in this station: to love and cherish her as my own flesh; and not to despise her, not to be bitter against her; but to bear with her infirmities, and forbear her in love, and all gentleness. Nor let me insult over her as an inferior; but mildly use

my authority, in treating her as my dear yoke fellow and companion. Not rigid in opposing of her; but comply with her, and condescending to her in all her reasonable desires and expectations. O make me meek and patient with her; faithful and kind to her; respectful and tender of her, and well pleased and satisfied in her: that she may find the refreshment and benefit of my fellowship, and not bewail but rejoice in her choice; to forsake all other for my sake. O blessed Lord, espouse my dear friend to thyself, in loving kindness and faithfulness, and tender mercies. Bless her and love her, and make her lovely to thyself, and to all; especially make her like the king's daughter, glorious within, that she may not only appear well here, but be most blessed for ever; and grant, O Lord our God, that we may be lovers of one another's souls, and promoters of each other's salvation; so that after a short conversation here, we may meet again with rejoicing there, where we shall never part, even in that fulness of joy which is in thy presence; where, though there be no marrying, nor giving in marriage, yet is there greater festivity and gladness, than in any day of espousals; and all heavenly sweets, and the highest pleasures for evermore. *Amen.*

## *The Wife's Prayer.*

O MY God, thou hast called me to this state of life; and it is the disposal of thy providence, that I should be joined in wedlock with thy servant. I bless thee, Lord, that thou hast dealt well with me, and provided graciously for me. O continue thy goodness to me, in giving me knowledge and grace to demean myself aright in this relation, that

I may honor and obey the Lord in reverencing and obeying my husband; submitting to him in all things not forbidden by thee; speaking of him, and to him, with such words, to signify the high esteem and dear love that I have for him: and so comporting myself, as to give him content, and increase his delight; that he may not only be satisfied with me, but take pleasure in me: and in any occasions of offence, with silence, or soft obliging words, let me quench the flames; so preserving peace. O give me the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit; such as may not only make me sweet and amiable at present, but also prevent all shameful and mischievous effects. O make me humble and modest, discreet and considerate, careful and diligent, faithful and constant, mild and patient; remembering not only the duties and comforts, but also the temptations and crosses of the married condition; and taking the worse with the better, as a part of my portion; still shewing myself a follower of wise and pious matrons in all things that are of good report, however I am tried with prosperity or adversity. Bless my dear partner, O Lord, with the best of thy blessings; and love him, and keep him in thy continual care, till thou bring him to thy heavenly kingdom. O bind us both in faithfulness unto thee, as well as to one another: and as we are one flesh, so make us of one heart, and of one soul, that nothing but death may ever make a separation between us. And let us not hold together only upon the worldly account, but also, and especially upon the religious and godly; to admire, and love, and serve, and glorify, and please thee our God, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for a Woman in Travail.*

O ALMIGHTY Lord God, who bringest to the birth, and givest strength to bring forth; shew favor, we beseech thee, to thy servant in the time of her need and distress; and be not far from her when trouble is nigh to her, and lies sore and heavy upon her: but let her experience thy help at hand, according to the necessity of her case. O mitigate the pangs, and make them tolerable to her; and support and relieve her under the pain and pressure that are so grievous to be borne by her. And grant her, Lord, a timely, safe, and happy deliverance of the offspring wherewith she travails, that she may see the fruits of her womb with such comfort and joy, as may make her forget the past anguish and sorrow; and with a truly thankful heart give thee the glory of such thy mercy, who dost things worthy of God, and makest thy servants a way to escape out of the dangers that threaten to destroy them. Or shouldst thou turn things contrary to these our desires, which we humbly present before thee; shouldst thou refuse to hear us begging for the life of thy handmaid, and make this unexpected birth prove the cause of her death; yet hear us, O Lord, we earnestly pray thee, for her soul, that it may be safe in thy blessed hands; that she may be prepared for a better life; and find the best deliverance of all from sin and misery, into the perfection of holiness, and the fulness of joy; there to live in thy love, and to sing thy praise for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Thanksgiving after a safe Delivery.*

BLESSED for ever be thy name, O Lord, our gracious God, who rememberest us in our low

estate, and dost not abhor the affliction of the afflicted; but hearest thy servants crying to thee in their distress, and sendest relief and help in time of need. O that we may praise thee, Lord, as we ought, for such thy goodness and wonderful works to the children of men! Thou bringest down, and raisest up; thou givest trouble and sendest comfort; throwest down under fears and griefs, and again revivest our hopes and joys. Thou, O God, art good in all, and worthy to be admired and praised in every dispensation of thy providence; but chiefly are we affected with thy seasonable aids of our misery, when thou givest us beauty for ashes, the oil of gladness for mourning, and the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness; so thou hast now, blessed be thy name! refreshed thy afflicted handmaid, and rejoiced the souls of thy servants. And here we offer up unto thee, O gracious Lord, all our devout acknowledgments of thy loving kindness; and the sacrifice of our unfeigned thanks and praise for this sweet reviving mercy, which is as life from the dead. O that thy handmaid, and all of us, may be duly sensible of such favor from the Lord; and for all the great goodness and these continual obligations from above, may we give thee all the love of our hearts, and the service of our lives, and the glory due to thy blessed name, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for our Children.*

THE children, O Lord my God, which thou hast given me, I return, and surrender them up to thee. O that they may know thee, and be owned by thee, every one from the greatest to the least. Pour out thy Spirit upon my seed, and thy blessing upon my offspring: make them, Lord, thy

children by adoption and spiritual regeneration. O take possession of their hearts, and season their tender years with thy heavenly grace: and teach those who have the teaching of them, that they may be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and trained up in the way that they should go. I have helped to bring them into the world, children of wrath: O that thou wouldst make me instrumental to set them up in thy church the children of grace. Lord have mercy upon them, and speak life to their souls, and whatsoever else they want: O let them have thy grace and the portion of thy children. My God! be thou a gracious Father to them, and a merciful Provider for them in all estates, and all affairs and events of their lives. Dispose of them, and whatever concerns them, to thy glory and to the promoting of their everlasting salvation.

Shouldst thou take them from hence before me, O fit them for thee; and make me willing to resign them to thee; or if thou take me from them, O my Lord, take them up, and be an infinitely better Father to them when I am gone. O keep them from the evil of this world; and conduct and bring them safe through it to a better; take thou care even of their temporal concerns, and choose their inheritance for them, that they may find it to be convenient here, and an easy passage through the present life; but especially, my God, take care of their souls, and give them the blessed treasure in heaven, that when they shall be deprived of all here, they may be taken into thy glorious kingdom above: to live with thee, and all the heavenly host, world without end. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for our Parents.*

O LORD God, my heavenly Father, I here prostrate myself before thee, to beg thy blessing, grace and mercy, upon my earthly parents. Cast them not away in the time of their old age; forsake them not when their strength fails them; but have compassion, Lord, on their infirmities and help them in all their weakness. O remember not against them any of their former iniquities; but according to thy mercy remember them for thy goodness' sake in Jesus Christ. O that the true wisdom may be with them, and abundance of thy grace upon them, that their hoary heads may be found in the way of righteousness, and their souls be ever precious in thy sight. O let goodness and mercy follow them all the days of their life: let their last days be their best days; and the longer they live here in the world, make them still the readier to die, and the fitter to live with thy blessed self, in the glorious life eternal. O be thou their guide until death; in death their support and comfort; and when heart and flesh, and all here shall fail them, O do thou never fail them, but be the strength of their hearts, and their portion for evermore. *Amen.*

## *The Widow's Prayer.*

O EVER living and all disposing God! thou hast taken from me the friend of my bosom, that was even as my own soul; and by the want, now taught me the worth of that blessing which I was not so thankful for, nor so careful as I ought, to use and improve, in the enjoyment, to thy glory. I submit to thy over ruling hand, which is always just, though sometimes heavy, as now I feel it upon

me. O deliver me, Lord, from the sins which are the cause of thy displeasure; and forgive me all wherein ever I have failed towards thee, or towards my dear partner. He was thy gift, and it was thy goodness that I enjoyed, and thy help and comfort that I found in him: who canst supply to me, by thyself, what I received from thee by his hands; for thou art still the same eternal Fountain of goodness, whatever means of conveyance thou cuttest off from us. O pity me, Lord, under the breach which thou hast been pleased to make upon me, and support me in the dejection of my heart, and guide and comfort me in all the perplexity of my thoughts. Withdraw not thou thyself from me, O my God, now trouble is upon me; but make even the bitter dispensation a happy occasion to bring me nearer to thyself, by removing that which lay betwixt thee and my heart; and to raise this heart of mine from the present world to a better, where I hope my dear friend is now with the Lord: that as a widow indeed, and desolate, and deprived of former helps, I may trust in God, and continue in supplications and prayers night and day. O thou that hast a peculiar care, and tender regard for the widows, be pleased to espouse my concerns, and direct my path, and shew me what I have to do, and fit me for, and assist me in every duty now incumbent upon me. O let my Maker be my husband to teach me, and help to defend and comfort me; to deal graciously with me, and to be all in all to me; and bring me safe, O my God, through this vale of misery, to the blessed kingdom of thy glory, for the sake of thy beloved Son, my only Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *The Orphan's Prayer.*

O LORD my God, thou art he that took me out of my mother's womb; and art pleased to style thyself in a peculiar manner, the Father of the fatherless: now am I left unto thee, my eyes are upon thee, and I desire to pour out my soul before thee, intreating thy gracious favor to have compassion on me, and leave me not desolate, exposed to the wants and mischiefs, and dangers of this wicked and miserable world: But when my father and mother have forsaken me, O Lord, do thou take me up, and be a Father, and the best of Fathers to me, and still a gracious Provider for me. Guide me, O my heavenly Father, and my friends also, that are concerned in the disposing of me and my affairs. O be thou pleased to choose my inheritance for me; and order me, and all that concerns me to thy glory, and to the promoting of my present welfare, and my everlasting happiness. Direct my designs, that they may be agreeable to thy blessed will; and bless and prosper my undertakings and endeavors, that they may succeed according to my desire, and so as to give me occasion for thy praise. My Lord, I commit myself to thee! O be thou my God and guide, even unto death: be ever watchful over me for good, and preserve and keep me, and conduct and lead me in all the variety of estates and affairs of this life, till thou hast brought me to inherit the blessed portion of thy children, in that most sweet and glorious life, which shall never fail. Grant this, O merciful Father, for thy dear Son's sake, my only Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *The Aged's Prayer.*

O LORD of my life, thou art my God from the womb, my hope and trust from my youth; by thee I was brought into the world, and upon thee have I lived all my days. O with what patience and long suffering hast thou endured me! and with what loving kindness and tender mercies still prevented and followed me: how many have I seen snatched out of this life, as I fear, miserably unprovided for their death; whereas thou prolongest my days, and together with more days, still addest new mercies to my life: O that it may be in mercy to my soul, that I am suffered to live so long in the world; that as my life is lengthened out, so all that concerns my salvation may be filled up, that I may redeem the time, and improve all the opportunities and means of grace which thou art pleased to put into my hands, for the best profit and advantage of my soul, that my age may be the good old age; and the remaining time of my sojourning here, the best of all my time.

Though my sight is dim to the world, let my eyes be ever towards the Lord, and open to see the things of my peace: though my ears are dull of hearing, let my heart be attentive to thy calls, and to hear thy voice while it is called to-day. Though I cannot, as formerly, relish the pleasures of meat and drink; yet let me taste the goodness of the Lord, and favor the things of the Spirit of God, and hunger and thirst after righteousness, and those pleasures which are at thy right hand for evermore. And though my limbs are weak, and my strength will not serve me to travel abroad as I have done; yet make me strong in the Lord, to do thy work, and to walk in thy ways; and to perform my great journey home to my house eternal in the heavens: and seeing there is no man

that liveth and shall not see death : and the longer I have escaped it, the nearer I am now to it, and shall one day certainly fall by it ; and must every day reckon upon it, and know not but my soul this night may be required of me : O let not my length of days tempt me to forget their end ; or to put my last day far from me : but let me keep it ever in my prospect as drawing nigh to me ; that I may order all my concerns, not only like a stranger and sojourner with thee, as all my fathers were ; but as a dying man, and ready to drop into the grave, waiting and watching, and preparing for the coming of my Lord ; that at thy coming, thou mayest find me so doing.

And because I am old in sins, as well as in years ; pulled down with iniquity, as well as with age ; and the number of my transgressions exceeds not only my years and days, but even the hours of my life, and the hairs of my head ; where I cannot, alas ! pretend to my innocence ! O my gracious Lord, give me true repentance ! and that godly sorrow for my sins, which may prevent my going down in a worse sorrow to my grave. Thou hast saved many an aged sinner ; O God, be so merciful to me a sinner. Put all my sins upon the account of thy dear Son ; and wash me thoroughly from them, in the fountain of his precious blood. Especially, O merciful Lord, acquit and discharge me from the sins that lie heaviest upon me ; and that make the thoughts of death and judgment most frightful to me. O give me Lord, some tokens for good, that I shall find such mercy at thy hands, that I may depart in peace, and finish my course with joy, and in the end of my life be numbered among the redeemed and blessed of the Lord, through the tender mercies of my God, and the all-sufficient merits of my only Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *The Child's Prayer.*

O MY good God, who hast made me, have mercy upon me, and teach me to know thee, and incline my heart to love thee, and enable me in all my life to do thy will as I ought to do. Thou hast formed me in the womb for thyself, and in the church I have been devoted, and offered up to the Lord, as thy dear child, in all duty to wait upon thee. O thou blessed Guide of my youth! give me thy grace, to understand and seek after God: Yea, to seek the Lord early, and to remember my Creator, and bear the yoke in the days of my youth; that thou mayest not be unmindful of me in the time of age; but make me to find a never-failing comfort in my latter days. As I grow in years and stature, so help me, Lord, to grow in wisdom and grace, and in favor with God and men. O keep me from the evil of this world, and carry me safe through it to thy heavenly kingdom. Make me obedient and tractable to my parents and teachers; and lowly, and respectful, and courteous to all: and bless me, and help me, Lord, in my learning of all such things as shall stand me in stead, and do me good. O my heavenly Father! take care of me, and provide for me, and so dispose of me in the world, that I may be useful, and serviceable in my generation, and a blessing to the place where thy providence shall settle my abode. Preserve me, O my Lord, from the infection of bad examples, that I may not be led away, and enticed to follow the ungodly despisers of thy laws and religion, but make me a lover and follower of such as are good and godly, and a pattern of all that is commendable for others imitation. O God, thou knowest my foolishness, and seest how weak I am; O look not upon my follies, nor remem-

ber the sins of my youth; but have pity on my infirmities, and pass by my failings. And thou, that out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast ordained strength, O magnify thy power in my weakness, and make me a profitable member of society, and the instrument of thy glory. Leave me not, O Lord, to myself, in the hands of my own counsel; but let me be taught of God how to behave myself, and what to do: and take thou the gracious charge and guidance and government of me; and keep my heart still in thy fear and love; and direct all my ways to please thee, my God, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer to be used by the Rich and Great.*

O LORD, the gracious Giver of all our good things! thou hast opened thy hand to me in a bountiful manner, and givest me all things plenteously to enjoy: so that I am full and abound in the store wherein many of my neighbors are indigent and wanting: O that this plenty, which I have for my body, may be in mercy and love to my soul! And that I may not be put off with my portion in this life, nor rest in the gifts, forgetting and slighting the blessed Giver! for better I never had the world's good, if I am never the better for it. And the more I have, the sadder account I shall make, if I do not good to myself and others with it. The prosperity of fools destroy them. O good God! grant that this may not be my case, that I may not so abuse my prosperous circumstances to rebel against thee, my Lord, with thy own bounty; and carry worst towards thee, when thou dealest best with me. I am thy steward, O Lord; grant I beseech thee, that I may be found faithful in what is committed to my trust; that I may honor thee with

my substance, and serve the ends of thy holy religion in my prosperous condition. O that with the fulness put into my hands, leanness may not be sent into my soul! That I may not wax proud and wanton, and careless of seeking after a better world; when I am so well provided in this! O let not my riches choke thy grace, nor dull my zeal in thy service.—But the more thou hast done for me, my God, make me the more careful to approve the thankfulness of my heart to thee; and the more concerned to please thee, and the more fearful to offend thee. Seeing thou hast pronounced it so hard for the rich to enter into thy kingdom, O keep me in continual vigilance to escape the temptations and dangers to which I am exposed in this condition. And teach me, good Lord! how to abound, and to use this world without abusing it. That the bodily provisions may not through my folly, become snares and hindrances to my soul; but by thy mercy may be helps and encouragements to my duty.

O let me not trust in uncertain riches, nor value myself upon what I have of the world, but be covetous after the true treasure of thy heavenly grace and love; and count all things but loss and dung, that I may win Christ, and be rich in good works, and abound in the fruits of righteousness. As thou fillest me with thy good things, so fill my heart with thy love and grace to use every gift aright to thy glory, who hast made me so much to differ from multitudes of poor crratures here in the world. O let me not despise any above whom thy distinguished kindness has raised me; but give me a heart to condescend to them of low estate: and amidst all my plenty to be clothed with humility, and forward to all the offices of charity; ready to communicate, willing to distribute, laying up in store the good foun-

dation against the time to come, that I may lay hold upon eternal life; and so making me friends of the unrighteous mammon, that when I fail they may receive me into everlasting habitations. Whatsoever I have in the world, O that I may have it, Lord, with thy leave and love, sanctified to me by the word of God and prayer; and by a right use and conscientious improvement of it to the honor of thy name, from whom every good and perfect gift does descend. O let me never gain the world at the hazard and loss of my soul; but rather than so, let me be stript of all which I have in this life, that I may inherit the heavenly treasure and life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*A Prayer to be used by such as are Poor and Low in the World.*

O LORD, the great Disposer of all our estates and concerns! thy Providence appoints every one their several stations; and it is thy will that there should be poor and low, as well as rich and high, in the world. One thing is needful; and it is not what we have of the world, but what we are towards God, that will do us good, and make us happy. If thou shower not down plenty upon me, yet Lord, give me what is needful and convenient for me. And however thou dealest by me for the things of this life, O deny me not the riches of thy grace, and the saving good of thy chosen, which is better than thousands of gold and silver. Teach me, my God, to suffer need, without repining at my lot, or coveting what I have not, or envying those that have it. O make me contented with my portion, and not aggrieved to be obscure and mean in the world; so that I may be known to heaven, and accepted in the sight of thee, my God, through Jesus Christ. Let me

never stretch out my hand to iniquity, nor seek to help myself, by any dishonest ways of getting; but choose rather to be poor than wicked; and to want my daily bread, rather than thy heavenly grace: casting all my care upon thee, and trusting to thy Fatherly care, to provide for me. Let me labor, working with my hands, the thing which is good, in all that I can, to minister to my necessities: and may thy blessings succeed and prosper all my honest designs, and poor endeavors.

And the less I have of this world, O let me be in greater care to lay out and labor for an infinitely better! that I, who have no inheritance upon earth, may be made meet to be a partaker of the inheritance of thy saints in light; that I may not lose both worlds, or pass from my small things here, to be out of all for ever; but may have my treasure in heaven, and thy blessed self, O Lord, to be my portion for ever; being found among those poor of this world, whom thou hast chosen, that are rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom, which thou hast promised to them that love thee.

And blessed be thy name, O righteous God! that with thee there is no respect of persons; but the poor are as capable of it as the rich; yea, when it is so hard for the rich to enter, that thou hast put out of my way many of the snares and temptations that hinder others. And my poverty cannot keep me out of thy glory; but when I am also poor in spirit, as well as low in the world, I have thy promise of the kingdom of heaven. My God! grant me that poverty of spirit, and those better things that accompany salvation; and then how short soever I am kept in this life, thy will be done; though I have nothing to depend upon in the world; yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation;

having thee for my God, and chiefest good, and my most gracious Father in Jesus Christ. O Lord, give me thyself, and then I have all; and for that best of gifts, I will bless thy name for ever more. *Amen.*

## *The Master of a Family his Prayer.*

O MOST high God, the great Lord of all, whose providence disposes the several ranks of men in the world; and thy word gives rules to masters, as well as servants, how to demean themselves in their respective places. It is thou, my Lord, who hast made me the head of this house: O that I may walk in it with an upright heart; and not shelter any ill thing offensive to God or man, under my roof! but countenancing the pious, correcting the vicious, and yielding myself a pattern of all that good which ought to be seen in the rest; let me so command my children, and my household after me, that they may keep the way of the Lord. And as for me and my house, let us ever in faithfulness serve the Lord. O that there may not be a hypocrite, nor an unrenewed profane person among us. Let not me that am called a master, myself serve sin, nor be enslaved by my own passions and lusts; but have the dominion over myself; and keep my eyes ever waiting upon the Lord my God, even as the eyes of servants are in the hands of their masters.

O that my wife may be the spouse of Christ; my children the children of God; my servants the servants of the Lord! and all the members of my family the true members of thy church, and the constant followers of all that is laudable and good. Let me not carry myself with rigor and a high hand, or despise the cause even of my servants; but with pa-

tience and fairness hear them; and give unto them that which is just and equal, knowing that I also have a master in heaven. Let me not insult over any that are under the yoke; nor be severe and cruel to them; nor oppress and defraud them in their wages, nor any rewards or encouragements that they may justly expect from me. But let my dealings with them, and my usage of them, be upright and candid, merciful and kind; taking care of their bodies and their souls, of their maintenance and their carriage, and all that concerns them as their benign patron, and their faithful friend; and treating them with all due regard, as my brethren and fellow servants, and my equals in the worship of God, with whom is no respect of persons. O give me, Lord, an understanding heart and prudent conduct, and such a spirit of government, that I may go in and out before my people as one that is taught of God, and commanding nothing but in the Lord, according to thy will, and for the advancement of thy glory.

O bless my house, Lord, and preserve it from vice and ungodliness, and from all disorders and dangers, and make it a nursery of virtue and piety, and all that is exemplary, and of good report. Direct, O God, and help us every one in the discharge of our several offices; that we may employ ourselves as we ought, and with quietness do our own business; never forgetting, but above all respecting and pursuing the great work of the Lord, for which thou didst send us into the world. O keep us all evermore in thy fear and love; safe under thy tuition and upon the holy way to thy heavenly kingdom; through thy mercy to us all, in our common Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*The Servant's Prayer.*

O GOD, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth! it is the ordination of thy good providence, that there should be various ranks and degrees of men; and that I should be disposed of in the station where now I am. Wherefore I submit, Lord, to thy most wise appointment of all things; and desire, with content and thankfulness, to accept of my portion, how low soever in the world. If my blessed Redeemer, who is Lord of all, would take upon him the form of a servant, and condescend even to the meanest offices for the service of our souls; O why should I be aggrieved to be a servant under the yoke? when in serving man as I ought, I do also serve the Lord; and though bound to others I may be the Lord's freeman: yea, in faithfully discharging the duties of my place, I shall be as acceptable to my God as any that enjoy the highest station. I leave it to thee, O Lord of all, to choose my inheritance for me. Only I beg at thy hands that my lot may fall where my soul may prosper, though I work or fare the harder. For if my soul do well, I shall be for ever happy. If my heart be right with God, I shall have his blessed countenance and love. And if I be found in the way of righteousness, I shall be exalted in due time, however abased at present. O my supreme Lord! let it not be so much my care to get higher in the world, as to get more in thy favor, wherein is life. Let it be more my concern, to fill my place, and discharge my duty with faithfulness, than to change it for more ease, profit or honor.

O let me not be the servant of sin, but enjoy the blessed liberty wherewith Christ Jesus sets all his people free; the liberty from sinful bondage, the liberty to follow my Lord carefully, and to run the way

of thy commands with an enlarged heart. And, Lord, be thou pleased to fit me for, and teach and help me in the service to which I am called; that I may perform it to the glory of thy name, to the pleasure and welfare of those whom I serve, and my own true advantage and comfort. O make me true and faithful, careful and diligent, humble and obedient, meek and patient, fair and peaceable; doing the business of my place, not with eye-service as a man-pleaser; but in singleness of heart, fearing God. Not cross and froward, but apt to bear, and deny myself; not answering again, to stir up wrath; but with silence and submission, following the things that make for peace; not debasing my master to set off myself; nor doing him any damage for my own filthy lucre, or fleshly pleasure; but tendering his credit and interest, as one that would be found faithful in the sight of my God, who evermore seest in secret, and searchest the very heart: and make me, I beseech thee, such every way towards thee, that thou mayest mercifully accept me, and all my service, for the sake of thy beloved Son, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *The Soldier's Prayer.*

O LORD God of hosts! who hast all the creatures in heaven and in earth ready to fight thy battles, and execute thy pleasure! thou didst not sow any seeds of enmity in our nature; but didst create man endued with all the principles of love and dispositions to peace. It is from our lust and sins, that the wars and fightings come amongst us. First we fell out with our God, and our happiness; and ever since it is a contentious, quarrelsome world that we live in, where restless men are jostling one another, and striving for that ease and content which the world has

not for them. Now that I am in this military station, O Lord, instruct and enable me to behave myself therein as I ought. O make me the faithful soldier of Jesus Christ, in that spiritual warfare, wherein I am to combat with the enemies that war against my soul. And that I may have peace with my God, let me have no peace with my sins, nor any part or lot with the rebels against heaven; nor be carried away with any ungodly example, into such wickedness, against which thou, O God, hast declared thy wrath from heaven. O grant that I may never so strive with my Maker, nor allow myself in such a habit of mind, and course of life, as are enmity against God; but ever dread more to fall into thy hands than their's, that can but kill the body; and shew myself the more zealous for thee the more I see others set themselves against thee. O Lord most high! make me valiant for thy cause, as well as that for man, wherein I am now engaged. And preserve me, O my God, from the profaneness and blasphemy, the lewdness and debauchery, the rudeness and violence that are most incident to men of this profession; that I may not be infected with their contagion, but preserve my integrity, amidst all the temptations wherewith I am surrounded.

Though the sword is in my hand, let the peace of God rule in my heart; and though I am a soldier, let me not be a man of blood, delighting in war; but a ready servant of my country, a faithful instrument for our common defence and safety, and a dutiful subject to the powers ordained of God, for the Lord's sake. O my strength and my Redeemer, strengthen my heart and hands for the service to which I am called; and make me successful and victorious, through thy blessing and power from on high. It is thou, Lord, only, that makest us to dwell in safety:

O cover my head in the day of battle; and in all times of danger, be thou my shield and buckler.—And either keep the evil from me, or arm me for it, that I may not be ruined by it, but gain good out of it, and find bodily hurts making for the health of my soul: and even the temporal death but a gate opened to eternal life. And seeing I go with my life in my hands, and am more exposed than other men to dangers and death, O make me more careful of my soul, more mindful of my latter end, and more diligent to put and keep myself in a preparation and readiness to die. And whether I prosper or miscarry in the attempts and enterprises wherein I am now concerned, O let my soul be ever precious in thy sight, and safe in thy hands. Help me, O my supreme Commander, the great Captain of our Salvation, so to live, that I may find it the greatest gain to die: and let me go on, as Christ's faithful soldier, so conquering and to conquer the enemies of thy glory, and the hindrances of my own and others' salvation, that having overcome, I may sit down in thy kingdom, and triumph in thy sweetest love, and in thy heavenly joy and thy most glorious praises, world without end. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for the Melancholy and Dejected.*

O MOST good and gracious Lord! thou knowest our frame, and art a God full of compassion, to pity and relieve thy servants under their trouble and oppression. Look down we humbly pray thee, with thy wonted pity, and remember in tender mercy the work of thy hands, our disconsolate friend; this troubled soul, that is even distracted in suffering thy terrors; while thy wrath lies hard upon him, and all thy waves and billows are gone over him to dis-

turb his peace, and oppress his mind, and unfit him rightly to use his reason, or discharge his duty. O thou that speakest the winds and waves into obedience and calmness, settle and quiet his discomposed breast; speak peace and satisfaction to his troubled mind; and give him comfort and sweet repose, in the sense of thy pardon and love. Lord help his unbelief, and increase his faith, that he may not be faithless but believing. Though he now walk in darkness and has no light, let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God. And in the multitude of the thoughts and sorrows that he has in his heart, O let thy comforts come in to refresh his soul. Be thou pleased, Lord, to deliver and ease him of the load that lies upon his spirit; and let in the beam of thy heavenly light, to scatter and dispel all the clouds and darkness in which his mind is wrapt up. O direct to the means most proper for his help, and bless and prosper them so, that they may be efficacious to promote his recovery out of this low and doleful estate. Incline his ears to wholesome counsels, and fashion his heart to receive due impressions. O gracious Father! pity his frailty, and forgive his iniquity; and heal him, Lord, both in soul and body; rebuking his distemper so, that his disquieted soul may return to its rest. O raise him up and make him whole. Yea, make haste, O Lord, to shew mercy upon him, even for thy own mercy's sake in Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer for the Lunatic and Distracted.*

O LORD, the only wise God! thou givest understanding, and takest it away as thou pleasest; and thou art holy and righteous in all that ever

thou dost. Though the reason and meaning of many of thy works are unknown to us; yet still thou knowest well what thou hast to do; and we must be dumb, and open not our mouths, when it is thy doing. The stroke which thou hast laid upon thy poor creature, would be just upon any of us; and we must acknowledge it owing only to thy mercy that it is any better for us. But in tender compassion of his pitiable condition, we take upon us to beg thy merciful relief in his behalf. For thou, Lord, that givest sense and discretion, canst as easily renew them when impaired: and thou that madest thy servant out of nothing, canst also bring him to himself again, and help him to use his reason aright, as he ought.

O dispel the clouds in which now his soul is wrapped up, that he may come to a good understanding of himself, and the things of his peace; reduce and heal the crazed and broken faculties; or else settle and quiet them, pacify and compose them. Have pity we beseech thee, O Lord, upon him, and impute not unto him any thing that is now said or done amiss by him; but in mercy pass it by, as if it had not been said or done at all.

O that thou wouldst direct to some means for help in this case, and make him tractable to the use of remedies, and willing and ready to comply with the advice of his friends, till he shall be in better capacity to manage and help himself; and where no means will reach to work the cure, thou that canst open the doors which are barred against us, and art never at such a loss but thou knowest how to deliver; O reveal thy glorious arm, without means, to bring salvation from above; and do the work worthy of God, to command that deliverance which is out of our prospect to see effected; that thy name may have all the glory of such thy great and wonderful mercy in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for insensible Sinners.*

O LORD, the great Almighty God, who quickenest the dead, and callest those things that are not, as if they were: with thee nothing is impossible; but the things that resist all the skill and power of man, thy divine virtue and glorious operation, with the greatest facility, brings to pass. Thou, the living God, canst speak life to souls dead in trespasses and sins; and make even such as lie in the grave of all their habitual corruptions, hear the voice of the Son of God and live. It is the great work of thy eternal Spirit, Lord, to convince the world of sin; and to make inconsiderate, careless sinners to know themselves, and be concerned as they ought about the case of their souls. O that these poor insensible wretches, who have sinned themselves even past feeling, may find such mercy from the Lord, and yet come to feel in themselves the irresistable force of thy hand. O that thou wouldst open their eyes, to see their case, and soften their hearts to bewail their sins; and turn their course to flee from the wrath to come! Blessed Lord, awaken them with thy terrors, before they be overtaken by thy judgments! O break in upon their souls by thy mighty convictions, to set them in bitterness for their sins; and let thy quick and powerful word pierce into their hearts, to make them cry and seek out, what they must do to be saved!

O if they did but apprehend their case, and know their transgressions, that they remain so remorseless and unconcerned, as if nothing were amiss with them, and that can indulge themselves in pleasure and mirth, as if they were in the happiest condition, would soon be struck down into the deepest heaviness and consternation, refusing to be comforted; and go mourning all the day long, yea, even roar for the disquietness of

their hearts. O God of all grace, be thou pleased in mercy to shew such seeming severity; to write bitter things against them, and make them confess their former iniquities; and to feel now the weight and horror of all their sins, that they may not feel it eternally when past remedy. Direct and empower thy messengers, Lord, to speak home to their conviction, crying aloud, and not sparing to shew them their transgressions and their sins. Yea, make thy word in thy servants' mouths as fire, to enflame and rouse the consciences of such drowsy secure sinners, that they may come to perceive what a forlorn, lost condition, they are in; and be restless in themselves till coming unto Christ, laboring and heavy laden under the load of their sins, in him they may find rest for their souls. O thou Almighty God! do marvellous things, worthy of thyself in taking away that which blinds the minds, and hardens the hearts of such stupid creatures; and bring them out of the worst lethargy and deadness, to understand themselves, and seek after God, and to take and to follow the way of peace with thee, through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## *The condemned Malefactor's Prayer.*

OUT of the depths do I cry to thee, O Lord! Lord, hear my voice: let thy ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. If thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who should stand! but there is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared. Therefore I wait for the Lord; my soul does wait, and in thy word do I hope. Though my sins have found me out, and brought me to shame, and they are heinous beyond expression, and the thought and remembrance of them fills me with horror and

confusion; yet I believe, Lord help my unbelief, they are not greater than thy Son has satisfied for, nor greater than thy mercy in him can set me clear from, as bad and as sad as ever I have made my case. Woe is me, vile and wretched that I am, so foolishly and wickedly that I have done! yet it is not past thy help and care, O Lord God Almighty, who at the lowest canst raise, and at the worst art able to relieve us.—Except we repent, thou hast told us, that we shall perish, but upon our repentance, thou hast promised thy gracious forgiveness. And though sin has abounded, yet when we forsake our wicked ways and thoughts, and return to the Lord our God, thou hast promised to have mercy upon us, and abundantly to pardon. He that believeth not on the Son of God is condemned with a worse condemnation than what I now lie under: but it is thy own most true and faithful word, O Lord, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life; and that he who confesseth and forsaketh his sins, shall have mercy. Though I cannot find such mercy at man's tribunal, yet I beg it of thee, the Father of mercies, who art the Helper of the friendless, and dost not reject the cry even of fools in their distress, though because of their sins they are afflicted, but rememberest us in our low estate, out of that mercy of thine which endures for ever. O thou that hast promised to forgive every penitent sinner, make me, Lord, I beseech thee, one of that number. O touch my heart with true remorse, that it may melt and bleed for my sins, and become such a broken contrite heart, as thou wilt not despise.

O that the doleful circumstances which I am in, may be turned, through the riches of thy grace, into a happy occasion of converting my soul, and perfecting my repentance, and promoting my salvation!

This is a time of shame and sorrow with me; but help me, good God, so to repent, and be converted that my sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. Pardon my sin, for it is great; too great for any but the God of infinite goodness and love to give me a merciful discharge from: and that thou mayest have the everlasting glory and my soul the refreshing fruit of thy mercy, O Lord, prepare me for it by such a serious repentance as thy holy word requires of sinners, and such as thy goodness in Christ Jesus will mercifully accept at my hands. What is past I cannot recall; but thou, Lord, canst remit it, and give me grace to repent of it; O give me such sound repentance for my sins, that thou mayest also give me full pardon of them; and never lay them to my charge, but upon the account of thy beloved Son, our blessed Saviour, who came to seek and to save that which was lost; and who himself suffered and died once, that we might not suffer and die eternally. O wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin, in that fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness, the precious blood of the immaculate Lamb of God, slain to take away the sins of the world, that thou mayest not abhor my soul, as I have justly deserved; but, of thy wonderful mercy, accept me in the Son of thy eternal love, in whom thou art well pleased.

My soul is exceeding sorrowful even unto death. O most gracious Lord! grant that my sorrow may be the godly sorrow; not only a sorrowing for the bitter consequences of my sin, but for the sin itself, and for my wicked offending of thee, my great Lord God, as I have done. O blessed Jesus, who camest to call sinners to repentance, and thyself didst hang upon the cross, and shew thy compassion and

great salvation upon the poor malefactor there suffering; remember me now in such mercy, Lord, for thy own mercy's sake. O Son of David have mercy upon me. Both now and ever, vouchsafe to hear me, O Christ; graciously hear me, O Lord Christ; and let thy mercy be shewed upon me, as I do put my trust in thee. O glorify this thy mercy in my salvation, and not thy justice in my destruction.

Though confusion is now my portion, yet help me, Lord, so to bear thy just indignation, and to obtain such benefit to my soul, out of the punishment of my body, that I may not hereafter awake to shame and everlasting contempt. And though I am now under the sentence of a temporal death, yet spare my soul, O most merciful Lord, and deliver me not into the bitter pains of eternal death. O that I may have all the shame and sorrow, and evil things in this life, that thou mayest spare me for ever; and shew forth all the wonders of thy grace, and power, and mercy, to prepare me for, and support me under the deserved punishment which I am shortly to suffer, and to give me hope in my death, even in this infamous death; and after death some part in thy kingdom, if but to be the least and lowest in the house of my God, for the sake of thy own tender mercies, and for the infinite merits of the great Redeemer of the world, my only Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen, Amen.*

*Prayer and Praise upon the Occasion of our blessed Saviour's coming into the world.*

BLESSING, and honor, and glory, and power, be to him that sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb, for ever and ever. O Lord God of our

salvation! thou hast remembered us in our low estate, out of that mercy of thine which endures for ever. Thou hast raised up a great salvation and mighty deliverance for us; to heal the sinful, to help the miserable, and to save that which was lost. None but thy blessed self, O Lord, the gracious Giver, knows the greatness of that gift, which thou hast conferred upon us; the greatest that thou couldest give or man receive, in giving thy only Son to be our Almighty Saviour, to deliver us from the eternal miseries of hell, and to make us meet to be partakers of the heavenly inheritance of thy saints in light. O how wonderful have been the designs of thy love, and the counsels of thy wisdom, to recover our poor lost souls, and to work for them a salvation worthy of God! that God should be manifested in the flesh, to destroy the works of the devil; and that the eternally Beloved of thy soul, should be made Son of man, to make us, sinful men, the children of God! O what manner of love has the Father bestowed upon us! exceeding all that ever we are able to say of it! O that we and all men may praise thee, Lord, for thy goodness, and such thy wonderful works to the children of men: that we may ever, with all admiration and reverence, and thankfulness, receive and ponder this great mystery of godliness: and that we may return the glory of salvation up to thee, who hast sent the joy of salvation down to us, that our souls may magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour; and blessed be the Lord God of Israel, that has so visited and redeemed his people.

And now that thou hast laid help upon one that is mighty; and found a ransom for us, and made the all-sufficient provision to save us; O help thou us, Lord our God, as we ought, to entertain and

welcome the joyful news, that Jesus Christ is come into the world to save sinners. Father of mercies, prepare us for the blessed Saviour which thou hast prepared for us: that he who came into the world in the fulness of time, may come into our souls with the fulness of his grace, and with all the blessings and consolations of his coming; and that, as he was miraculously formed in the Virgin's womb, he may be spiritually formed in our hearts. O thou great Lord and Lover of souls! remember our souls in mercy, with the favor which thou bearest to thy people; and visit us with the joy of thy salvation. O make the way of salvation plain before us, that we may know where our help lies, and what we must do to be saved. And incline and quicken us, O Lord, with all readiness to take that way, and to embrace that grace of God which brings salvation and to comply with the gracious designs of thy mercy, to do us the greatest good, to make us for ever happy. O blessed Saviour, be thou an effectual Saviour unto us; and so save us from our sins, that thou mayest also save us from the wrath to come. So redeem us here from all iniquity, that hereafter thou mayest redeem us from everlasting misery. Thou camest down to earth, to raise us up to heaven; and tookest our nature, to make us partakers of thine. O that we may experience the mighty power of thy great salvation upon us, to heal our depraved natures, to sanctify our sinful souls, and to make us such lovers and followers of thy holy ways, that we may have in us Christ the hope of glory, and those good things of thy Spirit which do accompany salvation. And for all the great and strange things which thou hast so graciously done for us, in revealing thy salvation and opening the doors of hope to us, and putting us in the way to that blissful end of our faith, the eternal salvation of

our souls, which thou hast purchased for us. Unto thee, O blessed God our Saviour, in the unity of the ever glorious Trinity, be all thanks and praise, and honor, and glory, rendered by us and all thy church now and for evermore. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer on the Occasion of our blessed Saviour's Death.*

O GOD, the Father of mercies, and of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom every mercy is vouchsafed and derived unto us; thou didst create us after thy own blessed image, in a holy and happy estate, but we have defaced thy first handy work, and put ourselves not only in a case of strangeness unto thee, but of enmity against thee; in Adam all die; and by the offence of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation: yet thou hast not used us as enemies, to leave us in the sad ruins of our fall; but hadst an eye of pity to us, lying in our blood, to bid us live: though thy own eternal beloved Son was fain to die, to save us from that everlasting death, which is the due wages of our sins, yet him thou sparedst not, that thou mightest spare us, and make us the eternal monuments of thy saving mercy. O what amazing unspeakable love is this, that even when enemies, we should be reconciled to God, by the death of his Son! But O the cursed nature of sin, to be hated with a perfect hatred, that had need of such an atonement! O the dreadful justice of God, how should we ever stand in awe of it! that required such a satisfaction! O the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that would redeem our poor lost souls at such a costly rate! and shed his own precious blood to save us! And O the precious death of our Lord Redeemer,

to be had in everlasting remembrance! By it we abide, and upon that we depend for the pardon of all our sins; and for our whole acceptance with God, both here and for ever. Though we could not satisfy thy justice, O God, for our sins, should we suffer eternally; yet thy Son has satisfied in full, and nothing at all remains on their score, for whom thou art pleased to accept his infinite satisfaction. And seeing there is balm in Gilead, and a Physician that is able to heal us, O let not our souls be unhealed: let not the great things which our Lord Redeemer hath done and endured for poor lost sinners, be lost unto us; but let the same be mercifully accepted upon our account, and for our sins. O let not the blood of Jesus Christ, as to us, be shed in vain; but let it purge and purify us from all our sins, and make our peace with thee, the just and holy God, against whom we have greatly sinned: that we may be healed by his stripes, and find his death unto us the savor of life.

Though we are sinful and unclean, yet what pollution and defilement cannot this Fountain, opened for sin and uncleanness, wash and cleanse us from! Having therefore such an all-sufficient Saviour to repair to; we will not be faithless, but believing that Christ is our Lord, and our God, who loved and redeemed us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood. O that we may know him, and the fellowship of his sufferings, and be so conformable to his death, that it may mortify the corruption of our nature, and the lusts that war in our members; and crucify the world unto us, and us to the world! The Lord pardon all our forgetfulness and disregard, and contempt of thy affection to us, and thy affliction for us; and make us to know more of the love wherewith thou hast loved us; and touch our hearts with such a powerful sense of thy love, that

we may make better returns of love to the great Lord and lover of our souls; and that we may never forget or slight such unparalleled kindness and love of God our Saviour, stronger than death, and better than life. O that the life which we now live, may be by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us, and gave himself for us! O let us, at all times, so live that we may abound in thy love. Blessed Lord! let this be ever preferred above our chief joy; and let nothing in the world ever be so dear to us as the altogether lovely Jesus, who has given the highest demonstration of love that ever could be given to our poor lost souls. And to thee, our Almighty Redeemer, and sweet Saviour, be all the praise and glory given, most humbly and heartily, now and eternally. *Amen, Amen.*

### *Prayer and Praise on the Occasion of our blessed Saviour's Resurrection.*

BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy, has begotten us again to a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It is he that liveth and was dead; and behold he is alive for evermore, Amen; and has the keys of death and of hell. The Lord liveth and blessed be our Rock, and let the God of our salvation be exalted. He that bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, has wrought eternal redemption for us: with his own right hand and holy arm, hath he gotten himself the victory; having loosed the pains of death, because it was impossible he should be holden of it. The glorious Sun of Righteousness is risen with healing in his wings; and hath shewed, that he is able to save himself, and to save to the utmost all that come to God through him. Our eyes therefore are to thee, O Lord,

our life, our strength, and our Redeemer, who hast all power in heaven and in earth, to whom nothing is impossible or difficult; who quickenest the dead, even souls dead in sin, as well as bodies dead in the grave; and hast life in thyself, to give it to whomsoever thou wilt. O that we may know thee, and the power of thy resurrection! and that we may feel it efficacious to raise us out of the grave of our sinful corruptions, to newness and holiness of life! that having part in the first resurrection, the second death may have no power over us. Speak death to our sins, O Lord, that our souls may live, and for ever bless thy name. Thou, O Christ, art our life; and in thee is all fulness of whatever we want. O give us that life which thou camest into the world to give, and let us have it more abundantly: yea, such life, from thee, as may enable us to live unto thee, and that entirely and cheerfully, even as long as we have any life and being. *Amen.*

## *Prayer and Praise on the Occasion of our blessed Saviour's Ascension.*

THOU art the King of Glory, O Christ; thou hast ascended on high, and dragged the infernal foes after thy triumphant chariot. And thou art exalted far above all principalities and powers; and enthroned in the highest glory in thy heavenly kingdom, where saints and angels, and all the host of heaven do admire and adore thee. Be thou exalted, Lord, and reign in the greatness of thy power and majesty, till thou hast brought all enemies in subjection under thy feet. But Lord, remember us, now thou art in thy kingdom, where thou rulest and reignest on high. O regard the supplications, and relieve the necessities of thy poor subjects and servants here

below. Save Lord, and let the King of heaven hear us when we call. And O that we may feel the powerful attraction of thy grace and Holy Spirit; to draw up our minds and desires from the poor perishing enjoyments here below, to those most glorious and everlasting attainments above, where thou sittest at the right hand of God. O let us lay up our treasure and have our conversation with thee in heaven; and so love thy appearing, and desire to be dissolved and to be with Christ, that when Christ, who is our life shall appear, we may also appear with him in glory: and after our ascending and dwelling above in heart and spirit, we may at last personally ascend, in soul and body, to be ever with the Lord: there, together with thy whole triumphant church, to see and admire, and love and bless, and praise and glorify thee, O blessed God, our Saviour, world without end. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer on the Occasion of the coming of the Holy Ghost.*

O THOU infinite eternal Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who workest all in all; and especially workest and abidest in the hearts and souls of men! pardon, we beseech thee, all our resisting of thy motions, and quenching the flames which thou hast ever enkindled in our breasts. And be pleased so to enlighten our minds, and purify our hearts, that we may be fit to receive and entertain thee, as the Guide and Comforter of our souls. O blessed Truth! lead us into all truth; and bring all needful things out of thy word to our remembrance: and set them home powerfully upon our hearts, to influence our lives, and to do us good, in every time of our need. O work, Lord, the grace that is not in us; and es-

tablish and increase what thou hast already wrought upon us. Excite and stir us up to all good; and enable us for the performance of it, and engage us to continue and persist in it.

O come down, Lord, as fire, upon us, to consume our dross, and to make clean our hearts, and inflame them with heavenly love, that we may rightly relish thy holy things, and be lively in following of thy holy ways. O be thou a powerful principle of life and light, and love, and of all grace and holiness in our souls, to clear and illuminate our minds, to spiritualize and raise up our affections; and to pacify and compose our consciences; and to bring our souls out of every dangerous, self-destroying course, into the paths of righteousness—and that way of life, which is above to the wise, to depart from hell beneath. O blessed Lord, restrain us from grieving the Holy Spirit of God, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption; and cast us not away from thy presence. Take not thy Holy Spirit from us. O make us so tractable to his holy motions, that we may experience his heavenly consolations. And let the joy in the Holy Ghost be more to us than all the pleasures of the world. O blessed Spirit! be thou ever with our spirits, to heal our distempers, and help our infirmities, and work mightily upon our hearts by thy grace, till our souls are fitted for that glory which is unspeakable and everlasting. *Amen.*

## *A Prayer on the Commemoration of any Saint.*

O GOD of all grace, who art pleased to call out of this present world a peculiar people to thyself; and so far to discover thy grace, and pour out thy spirit upon many of thy servants, to make them shine

as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation; eminent in all praise-worthy things; and great examples to the rest of mankind! We bless thy name, O Lord, that thou hast not left this miserable world destitute of such helps and patterns, both to shew us a more excellent way than the way of the world; and also to shew us how practicable is our duty; and what encouragement we have to take the holy good way, wherein others, with such happy success, have gone before us; that we, in our sluggishness, might be excited to be followers of them, as they were of Christ. And seeing we are encompassed with so great a cloud of witnesses, O that we may lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us! Teach and enable us, O King of saints, to make the good use and advantage of thy gifts and graces, shining forth in the inoffensive useful lives of such as have given thy holy religion the best recommendation, by letting men see their good works; and how much more excellent it makes the righteous than their neighbors.

O that we may never persecute thy saints, nor madly despise those who are as the apple of thine eye, whose great care is to approve themselves faithful in thy covenant, and zealous for thy glory: and not only to preserve their integrity, and keep themselves unspotted from the world; but to do good in their generations, and turn many to righteousness. May we ever hold such in highest reputation while living, as well as count their memories precious when they are dead. O heavenly Father! let them be dearest to us that are so to thyself. And let all our delight be in such excellent ones, the saints that are in the earth, of whom the world is not worthy;

however they be so frequently and greatly abused by the world, as if unworthy to live in it. O let us not be conformed to this world, nor follow the multitude to do evil; but be followers of those, who, through faith and patience, do already inherit thy glorious promises; and so live the life, that we may also die the death of the righteous. Help us, Lord our God, so to imitate thy saints here, in their holy living, that hereafter we may be numbered with them in the glory everlasting. As we desire and hope for their blessed end, O let us love and follow their godly way, and make the communion of saints a point of our practice, as well as an article of our faith: being lovers of all good men, honoring them that fear the Lord, and esteeming them very highly in love for their work's sake. And the Lord increase the number of the true converts, and thy faithful people, and those that be followers of God, as dear children in all places. O let thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven, that thy church may grow and prosper and flourish; till we, with all thy servants departed in the Lord, meet together in the kingdom of our Father, to live in thy presence and love; and to enjoy and praise thee, world without end. *Amen.*

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## *A SOLILOQUY for the pious Soul's Solace: by Way of Paraphrase on the Creed.*

LET not your heart be troubled, saith the Lord of love, our dear compassionate Redeemer; ye believe in God, believe also in me, the Messenger of his love, sent to be the Saviour of the world.

Why art thou cast down then, O my soul! and why art thou disquieted within me! when

I BELIEVE IN GOD,

And am not exposed, as one forlorn, to shift for myself, and to make a happiness out of my own stock, or want it! but I have a God to repair unto, and depend upon; and to expect all that ever I can desire from him. And this God is

THE FATHER,

Not only of our Lord Jesus Christ, by eternal generation, but my Father, by a late creation, which has brought me out of nothing to what I am; not only to being, and life, and sense, but to the use of reason and to the enjoyment of all that ever I have in the world. Yea, I am bold to father myself upon him also by a spiritual adoption; and I persuaded am that a woman may sooner forget her sucking child, than the Lord will forsake that work of his hands which he has now created in Christ Jesus: nor is he less able than willing to do me good, being

ALMIGHTY;

And what is too hard for Omnipotence? or who can pluck me out of his hands, to whom the very powers of hell are but weakness? Though I am weak as a shaken reed myself; yet my help stands in the name of the Lord, who is the

MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

And what can any of his creatures do against me, when God himself is for me; he that made all, will he see his child want a competency in the world? or should I be turned out of the earth, yet all heaven is the Lord's; and when he is my portion, I am sure of that which is infinitely better than all the world's good; which, alas, is but a poor drop from the eternal Fountain of all goodness. And what can be better than him that made it, and gave it all that goodness which it has? Myself, and whatever

I see in the world, was once nothing; and the great Lord, who was most blessed before all worlds, and would have been nevertheless blessed, though we had never been at all, he has brought us into being; not for any need he had of us, but to communicate of his goodness to us,

IN JESUS CHRIST.

And what so sweet as Jesus in my mouth! No such music in my ears; no such gladness in my heart. I was lost, and Jesus is my Saviour; I was dead, and Jesus is my life; I was an enemy, and Jesus is my peace. Still I sin, and Jesus is my advocate with the Father. Christ is my prophet to direct me, my priest to atone for me, my king to defend me, and to watch for good over me; he is all that I want and that I can wish. I am worse than nothing without him; and have all things given me together with him, who is the beloved of the Father;

HIS ONLY SON.

The only one, by nature, that is co-equal with the Father; and having such a friend in the court of heaven, I will therefore come boldly to the throne of grace. For if the Son make us free, we shall be free indeed. The Father will deny us nothing that we ask in his name; and the Son upbraids us, that we make no more use of this our blessed privilege. Hitherto ye have asked nothing in my name, saith he; ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. Such pleasure has he in the prosperity of his servants, who is

OUR LORD,

Our heavenly Sovereign; at whose feet kings do cast their crowns, and all the angels of God worship him. O happy the servants that have such a Lord! and blessed be the Lord, that will admit me in the num-

ber of his servants! Is not he my Lord, that has bought me? In one sacrament I was listed into his service; and in the other, how oft have I sworn to him allegiance! This is the crown of all my glorying, that Jesus is my Lord,

WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY GHOST,

In a miraculous manner, above all the power of nature; and without any the least spot of sin; that he might be the meet propitiation for all our sins. He is fairer than the children of men, who are, all of them, shapen in iniquity, and conceived in sin. But he is free from every blemish, and altogether lovely.

BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,

And so he has done the highest honor to our poor nature, by uniting it to the divine; taking part of our flesh and blood, that he might not only be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but also taste death for our offences: coming down to earth to raise us up to heaven; and manifested in our flesh and blood, that he might not only be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but also to taste death for our offences: coming down to earth to raise us up to heaven; and manifested in our flesh, to bring salvation home to our very doors: And how can I ever now be at a desperate loss, when the Lord, in whom lies our help, is become God with us! and to embolden our addresses to him, he has vouchsafed even to set up his dwelling among us. All the glory of salvation be to thee, O Lord, who has brought such joy of salvation to the world.

HE SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE.

And having no need at all to suffer for any sins of his own, was he not wounded for our transgressions and bruised or our iniquities? O wicked

wretch! that I should be one of those, who put the Son of God himself upon suffering! but O how happy for me, that he should be pleased to suffer once, to save me from suffering for ever.

### He was Crucified.

Love, that was strong as death, fastened my Saviour to the infamous tree; with his arms extended to receive me; and his side opened to make me a passage to his very heart. O my dearest Lord; God forbid that I should glory save in thy cross; which I shew Satan to confound him; on which I lean, to rest my weary soul; and to which I will cling, though carried by the gates of hell: yea, by which I hope to climb to the glory everlasting in heaven. He was

### Dead.

Not only Abraham, the friend of God, gave up the ghost; but he that was before Abraham, our blessed Saviour himself, the well beloved Son of God, when he took upon him the seed of Abraham, was not excused from dying. And shall I then conclude that my God has no kindness for me, because I must follow such forerunners, and go the way of all flesh? No; though he slay me, yet will I trust in him, and have hope even in my death; for the death of Christ is my life; seeing he has taken out the sting of death temporal, and made it the very entrance to life eternal. He has led us the way, through that gloomy vale, to the glorious region of immortality. And shall death separate me from my Saviour, or divorce my soul from the heavenly bridegroom? No; I depart hence to be with Christ, and that I may get nearer to him whom my soul loveth. He is gone before; and, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. Thou wast laid in the grave,

### And Buried,

To make that desolate place inviting by thy presence; to perfume the chambers of death, and turn the horrible pit into a happy seminary—where the poor, weak, perishing flesh is sown to come up again, powerful, glorious, and incorruptible. And shall I shrink from the bed where my Lord himself lay! would I lie better than he did? No; the grave itself is become a goodly lodging since Christ was there. And I will not go down in sorrow to my grave, when going but to sleep with Jesus, the life of my soul, and the spring of all my joy.

### He descended into Hell.

Three days he continued in the state of the dead, that none might question the truth of his death, upon which depends all our hope of pardon and life. That I might not dread the parting of soul and body, which befel my Lord himself; and that none belonging to him might be out of heart, even at the lowest ebb, when our Redeemer, who lay so long under the power of death.

### The third Day he rose again from the Dead.

And shall I be in bondage all my life, through fear of death, when under the conduct of such a victorious Captain of salvation, that has triumphed over all the powers of the grave? No; he lives and was dead. And though I know I must die, yet withal I know that my Redeemer liveth, and is alive for evermore; and because he lives, I shall live also; for he has no life but what every member of his shall share in. Now, therefore, O death, I can triumph over thee, since my Lord has routed all thy forces. It is true, yet thou canst kill me, but thou canst

not hurt me; for take down this crazy cottage and a better fabric shall succeed to stand for eternal ages. But could not all the bonds of death hold my Almighty Saviour? Dearest Lord! thou was arrested for our debt, and laid up in the prison of the grave, on our account; but thy release gives me a cheerful assurance that thou hast satisfied divine justice to the utmost. Since thou art come so gloriously forth, I am sure that all is discharged. Then blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy, has begotten us again to a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN.

And O with what joyful acclamations was he welcomed home into those high regions of the blessed, after all his wondrous achievements, to effect eternal redemption for us! He led captivity captive, and dragged the infernal powers after his triumphant chariot, to shew that hell, as well as death, is subject unto him. And now he has cleared us a way to glory, and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers; being gone to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we may be also. Even where

HE SITTETH AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY;

Far above all principalities and powers, a glorious King for evermore. With all powers and authority in his hands, and all the crowns and mansions of glory at his disposal. He is not only the Prince of the kings of the earth, by whom they all do reign: but all the angels in heaven fly to do his pleasure; where he has thrown off the veil, under which he shrowded his majesty here below; and shews him-

self now in all the splendor of the King of glory, to the admiration of the highest cherubims and seraphims, who will be joyfully taken up to all eternity, in beholding such wonders of divine beauty and glory. To him I look as the great author and finisher of our faith, and the blessed object of my daily worship and devotion; who, in all the height of his glory, does not forget his poor retainers here, but has still bowels of compassion to intercede for us, as well as fulness of power to prevail on our behalf; and God forbid that I should forget this absent friend; that he should be, to me, out of sight out of mind. O where should be my heart, but with the great love and beloved of my soul? who not only humbled himself on earth, but even now in heaven humbles himself, as to remember me in my low estate. And when I am loaded, or gravelled, that I know not what to do, I will go and put the matter into his hands, who can easily help me out, and set me right; for those enemies who are too hard for me he can soon make his footsool? What boon so big to be asked, but this great Master of requests in heaven, can obtain it for me? What time I am afraid then, or troubled, in a strait or at a loss, I will look unto Jesus, at God's right hand above, and remember his kind offices there; and pray his friendship, and entreat his gracious favor, who is worthy ever to be heard for me, though I am unworthy to speak for myself.

FROM THENCE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE THE QUICK AND THE DEAD,

And shall appear in greater power and glory than ever he was seen here in weakness and poverty; when his stubborn enemies, that would not that he should reign over them, shall be brought forth and

slain before him; and all his sheep that hear his voice, and follow him, waiting for his coming, and loving his appearing, shall then hold up the head, and never droop any more, but find the most refreshing sunshine amidst all the gloominess and horrors of that day; which will be to them a day of discharge, and jubilee, and coronation; the most sweet and lightsome day that ever came over them. Then shall I see him sit on the throne to give me my portion; who was nailed on the cross to purchase my salvation; my Advocate, my life, my Saviour, will be alone exalted in that day. And will my Advocate accuse me? will my life destroy me? will my Saviour condemn me? No; though good and bad both be called over there; long as Jesus is my judge, who himself has satisfied for the bad, and will make my imperfect good then shine out as the noon-day; I will pray, come Lord Jesus, come quickly.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY GHOST,

The Lord and giver of life, the heavenly counsellor and comforter of our souls, by whom I call Jesus Lord, and cry Abba Father unto my God. And having such a blessed guardian, and divine inhabitant, why do I drag on heavily, as if left comfortless? why do I not overflow with joy in the Holy Ghost? am I weak? he is the power of the Most High, to help my infirmities. Am I forgetful? he is the kind monitor, to bring all needful things to my rememberance. Am I afraid lest I should fail of God's acceptance and salvation? this blessed Spirit witnesseth with my spirit, that I am the child of God; and seals me to the day of redemption. Away then, thou foul accuser of the brethren: peace clamorous conscience; and stand aside all pitiful crea-

ture comforts; I have affiance in the Holy Ghost, the Comforter. For I belong to

THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH.

I am a member of that most truly royal society, some of which, are already entered into the joy of their Lord, got out of the field to their crowns; and passed from service to triumph; and the rest here—yet on our pilgrimage and warfare—are reaching forth to the glorious prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. The lines are fallen to me in pleasant places, where the Sun of Righteousness is sent to us, and causes the heavenly day-spring from on high to shine upon us; yea, in that church, against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. I believe

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS.

The same life and spirit pervades the multitude of believers every where: and like so many rivulets they run all to the same sea; although not in the same channel: Or, like divers, strings of a musical instrument, though they have several notes, yet they make up one song of praise and glory to their common Lord; from whom they receive influence, as all the bodily parts do from the head, and are knit together as fellow members of Christ's body. They are the household of faith; of that corporation and family of heaven; for the sake of which they forget their own people, and father's house. Yea, as all the parts of the body, how mean soever, share in the same life as is in the head and heart, and the noblest members despise not the vilest; but the lowest are of use to the highest and all conspire for the joint interest of the whole; so I, as a part of this great body, whilst I struggle not for myself, but keep to the flock of Christ, and join with them in the worship and ser-

vice of my Lord, and tender and love them in my heart, am one of their happy number, and do share in the prayers of every faithful christian throughout the world: and communicating now with the saints in all offices of love, I shall be advanced, with them, to the possession of their heavenly inheritance in eternal life.

### The Forgiveness of Sins.

This is the article that strikes at the very root of bitterness, and removes the ground of all my fears and griefs. O how numerous are my sins! and what a heavy load upon my soul! But it enlightens my heart to hear of God manifested in the flesh: to undergo all the penalties of sin, in the very nature that sinned; to bear our sins in his own body on the tree. And when our all-sufficient Surety has finished the atonement, will the justice of God require a second payment? No; God is not only merciful, but just also, in justifying the believers in Jesus; who was made sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. And now all the frightful guilt is swallowed up in that Fountain opened for sin and uncleanness; like as a drop of ink is lost in a mighty river, so that my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; and I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose blood cleanses us from all our sin. O that I could love him yet more, who forgiveth me so much.

### The Resurrection of the Body.

This is the Christian's strong hold, that although we fall into the grave, we shall not be utterly cast down; but have a Lord that will be the plague of death, and the destruction of the grave; to redeem us out of the hands of both. My flesh is perishing as the grass that is green and withereth in a day.—

But this mortal shall put on immortality: yea, mortality itself shall be swallowed up of life. This heavy log though sown a natural, shall rise a spiritual body, to glide through etherial regions, as the fish in crystal streams; and swifter than eagle or arrow, to follow the Lamb whithersoever he goes. Even the vile, coarse flesh, in the great morning of the resurrection, shall come forth, as a gloriously bridegroom out of his chamber; and like the trees new apparelled in the spring; more orient and beautiful of itself than all make it; shining as the firmament; yea, outvying the stars and the sun. Is my body then often here put to hardships? Be it so; I do not look for my heaven in it now, as it is here; but I expect it to rise impassible, past all suffering: And, in the mean time, I must not think it strange to be tossed on shipboard, till I arrive at the fair haven, where I would be. Am I tempted to excesses, or any lusts of the flesh, I will not surfeit on the meat that perishes, nor sink the vessel that is carrying me over to the blessed land of promise. Rather let me go without my full repast in the evening of this mortal life; so that I break my fast on thy heavenly pleasures of eternity, in the dawning of the Last Day. I do not hate thee, my own flesh, to bid thee stay and keep thy appetite for entertainments infinitely better; seeing I believe the resurrection of the body,

AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.

This is the centre of our desire, and the crown of our joys; the drift of our whole religion; and the height of all perfection: That which eases all our labors, and makes our very troubles look cheerful upon us. Wretched relief is the heathens' antidote against the dread of death; only to think, that die we must.—But Christians have a consolation strong indeed,

that, after death, we shall live for ever. Our present lives are, for the most part, spent in providing us livelihoods; and, instead of carrying happiness now in our vessels, all that we can do is but to make shift a little to stop our misery. Though God has graciously made it pleasant, even to repair the decays of our nature: yet he would not have us mistake that poor pleasure for our heaven; and the soul that knows itself is rather weary of this attendance on the corruptible flesh, and aspires after that state where the body shall obsequiously follow, without the drudgery of patching up its breaches and decays.—Where shall be nothing vexatious or troublesome; nothing to hinder or abate the perfection of bliss! nothing to mar or embitter the fulness of joy, but, all the black curtains drawn aside, we shall have the beatific sight of our Lord, which will create in us raptures greater than our hearts can hold, till heaven shall hold our souls, and we enter into that joy of our Lord, which is too large to enter into us; where we shall meet with all the best company in the world; and enjoy that sweetest of all society, without any reserves, in the most glorious place: And their and our souls, being then perfectly healed of every thing offensive, we shall have all the refreshments, without any uneasiness of conversation. Every faculty of the soul shall then imbibe that fulness of satisfaction which so long it had sought, but never found before. And neither shall the body want an agreeable entertainment for its feast and solace. But it is not for a tongue of flesh to utter, what eyes and ears of flesh never saw nor heard. It is enough to know, that it is above our knowledge; being the life that is sweetened with a goodness no less than the divine, and measured with a duration no shorter than eternal.

All this I believe; and I believe it is more than

all this which I believe, in believing the life everlasting. My life is hid with Christ in God; and the life which I now live, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. And when Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall I also appear with him in glory. O let me now begin the life of heaven, and hereafter I shall never know its end while I am here alive, may I so die to the flesh and the world, that when I depart from hence, I may live to God with Christ; which is the life incomparably best of all. *Amen. Amen.*

*THE END.*

THE

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